

Libraries

(A Continuation of Public Libraries)

Vol. 33

July, 1928

No. 7

Ten Years¹

President Carl B. Roden, librarian, Chicago public library

Looking backward over the 10 years that have passed over the American Library Association since the Saratoga conference of 1918, our eyes are led along a perspective crowded with events and accomplishments that each in their time and place engaged our earnest attention, enlisted our individual and corporate interest and, not seldom, aroused us to thrilled anticipation. Surveying them from the vantage point of a decade's end, these events and accomplishments now assume an added and weightier import as the retrospect reveals them in an orderly and logical array extending in a straight line from the beginning of the vista to the present. . .

The conference of 1918 was held literally amid the clash and tumult of war. The historic advance of the Allies that brought the final victory was launched even as we assembled on the broad verandahs of Saratoga and the atmosphere in which our deliberations were conducted was rendered tense and electric by the bulletins and rumors that marked the progress of events. The olive drab of service gave a martial hue to the assemblage. The programs were almost wholly given over to topics relating the work of librarians in camp and

field. Speakers and auditors alike sensed and sought to give utterance to the thrill of a time big with promise and portent. Everywhere was the thot, spoken and unspoken, that to return to the placid pursuits of peace when peace should come—and none dreamed how near it was!—would be impossible—and none realized how thoroly impossible. In the glaring dawn of a new day American librarianship found itself confronted with new opportunities overwhelming and dazzling in their sudden revelation. . .

Such was the state of mind and such the prospect when the A. L. A. met at Asbury Park in 1919. President Bishop sounded the note that echoed thru the proceedings of the entire conference in his statesmanlike address significantly entitled *The A. L. A. at the Crossroads*. The program was preponderantly concerned with the future. . .

Frankly, it was, as the president asserted, "a forward-looking conference. . . No other could be held by progressive Americans in the year of grace, 1919." In another paragraph of the presidential address occurs the ringing declaration that "We are bound to do more—not as much nor less—than we did before this emergency showed us our power. . . But first in any consideration of our possi-

¹Address at opening of fiftieth annual conference at West Baden, Ind., May 28, 1928.

ble future activities there necessarily comes the question, What sort of machinery do we have with which to work?" The conference of 1919 marked the beginning not only of our period of forward looking, but also of self-examination. In the midst of our just satisfactions with the work accomplished under the stress of dire necessity we turned to measure our powers in the light of the possibilities of the future. At least two steps were promptly taken in line with the thots that dominated the assemblage. The first was the creation of the Committee on survey of library resources, methods and activity, which was to languish for nearly five years before the means for the prosecution of its large task could be made available. The second was the creation of the Committee on an enlarged program.

The enlarged program comprised two parts, the first a logical summary of the services still to be rendered to soldiers and sailors, for which the remaining funds of the Library War Service were to be used; the second, a prospectus upon which we expected to capitalize the prestige which that War Service had won for our craft. We were not the only one of the so-called Welfare organizations that sought thus to hold the public bounty, so lavishly bestowed in those bitter years, to the less dramatic uses of peace-time rehabilitation. And if we failed, the failure, tho inevitable, was neither discreditable nor complete. We had little besides our war record to offer to possible investors—and the war was over; and we had never, and have not yet, greatly developed the art of salesmanship needed to cry our wares in the market-place. But the enlarged program as it receded, was found to have left a substantial deposit of experience, most timely and valuable at that stage of our development, and an equally substantial body of convinced opinion within our own ranks of the validity of our aspirations and of the possibility of their realization in good time and under other conditions. . .

When the Carnegie Corporation was established in 1911 its founder imprinted upon its charter the seal of his own ideals in the provision that it was to apply its magnificent trust to "the promotion of the advancement and diffusion of knowledge among the people of the United States." As one of its principal employments was specified the founding and aiding of libraries. For nearly 10 years it continued to enjoy the personal solicitude of its creator and naturally directed its benefactions into the channels deeply cut by himself. But the time came when the national necessity was paramount even to the works of benevolence and, in deference to the enforced limitation of the use of building materials, the Corporation announced the reduction and finally the cessation of its grants for separate library buildings. A survey showed the vast sums that had been invested in that particular form of aid to the cause of the advancement of knowledge and led ultimately to the conclusion that this account might well be closed. At the completion of its first decade, therefore, such grants were definitely discontinued and the Corporation set about finding other ways of manifesting its continuing and abiding interest in the present prosperity and future well-being of the American public library. For its own information, two studies were undertaken, the first in line with other investigations of the educational apparatus of the several professions, a searching scrutiny of "Training for library service," by Dr C. C. Williamson, whose report was made public in 1923, and the second, equally searching but more soothing to our sensibilities, the splendid vision of the possibilities for expanding usefulness of library service as it appeared to a trained and detached observer, Dr William S. Learned. Both of these famous commentaries upon our professional ideals, their values and their obligations, were received within our own ranks with frank recognition of their significance. Incidentally we ventured, as the issue proved, not

without good grounds—to read between their lines the intimation that the organization that had thus turned its powerful searchlights upon the prospect before us would not refuse to enforce its wholesome admonitions with the means to give them proper effect. Our mood was receptive in more than one regard, and our mood was not destined to be dispelled in disappointment. Within the year the problems propounded by the Williamson report were referred to the newly created "Board of Education for Librarianship." Funds were granted for beginning a study of existing facilities and methods for library training and for the preparation of a textbook, and the career of that energetic and much-discussed body was launched. . .

The board on the library and adult education is shrewdly named. It is the Board on the Library and Adult Education, not on the library in nor for—. These two concepts are still separate and coördinate. While the public library can be and is of great value to any educational agency, and especially to those of the informal type associated with this great movement, our chief concern at present is still as to how far the library may penetrate into any part of the educational field and retain the precious freedom it prizes so highly. . . It would be a hard price, indeed, to pay for our new-found contacts with the human individual if we were to exchange the benign prerogatives of inspirational leadership which the American public library has sought, however falteringly, to exercise, for those of a stern and solemn taskmaster. A happy parallel has been drawn between the work of the library in adult education and that with children, and it is well to extend the parallel far enough to note that the technique of the children's librarian is chiefly directed toward awakening the joys of reading, knowing full well that its utilities will then take care of themselves. The movement toward adult education gave us the opportunity to meet our adult patrons face to face and to discover that a surprisingly

large number were as eager to read with a purpose as we were to serve them in so doing. Whether we are not now by way of placing too much emphasis upon the purpose and not enough on reading for its own sake—even without a purpose—is a question of some interest. . .

Meanwhile there is much interesting pioneering still to be done in the wide open spaces across which the library and adult education are advancing towards one another. The valuable studies of reading habits and learning abilities conducted by other bodies with which the Board is coöperating present many interesting possibilities awaiting development. The pressing need of the provision of better, more fluid and more expeditious book service to students remote from adequate library service, along the lines, perhaps, of the excellent Central Library for Students operating in England and Ireland; above all the development of methods and opportunities by which the librarian may mobilize and transmit his own knowledge and love of books at first hand to his eager patrons, these are some of the unsolved problems of the library and adult education that lead us to hope that our capable Board may continue to function and to expand its researches for a long time to come.

The largest of our three undertakings, in scope, influence and obligations is undoubtedly the work of the Library Extension committee and its executive force in extending aid and expert counsel to the numerous communities whose calls for help in establishing or improving local library service make up the heaviest part of the daily office mail. That we have been able to assume and measurably to meet this truly national responsibility in a national way is among our most potent reasons for gratitude to the Carnegie Corporation. Nothing else that we are doing has been quite so effective in putting the Association on the map as a national organization as this, or so rich in the production of immediate and permanent results. To

be called into consultation by state officials and with other national associations concerned with the educational opportunities of their constituencies; to be enabled to set up demonstration units of rural library service upon a scale effective enough to wring appropriations from state legislatures; to assist in the formulation of county library campaigns and to be drafted, as the chairman of this committee was, to survey and initiate library service for a whole Canadian province, these are surely enterprises that appeal to our imagination and nourish our self-satisfaction. . . . If we should ever be forced by the turn of fortune to restrict our present activities to meet a restricted budget, I venture the prediction that this will not be the first one to suffer.

Chiefly as a bystander, with here and there a chance to lend a hand, I have had the good fortune to be close to the development of these three major enterprises since their inception. For nearly 20 years the A. L. A. has maintained its headquarters in Chicago, for 15 years in the Public Library building. When, four years ago, the multiplying activities under its new dispensation demanded larger space, the office was removed to quarters still—as this presidential year has amply demonstrated—within easy reach of my desk. The affairs of the past 10 years, and especially of the past five, are particularly vivid in my memory, and this circumstance has served to make my recital of them particularly diffuse and subjective. They are brought forward here with the object of calling attention to the

inescapable responsibility that rests upon the Association now and from now on, to decide and provide for their future course. After five years of well directed aid, rendered in each instance upon convincing evidence of the value of the respective projects as well as of their efficient execution, the Carnegie Corporation has made known its intention to terminate its beneficent sponsorship. Its grants are now decreasing in amount and will cease altogether in 1931. A capital grant of one million dollars, made in installments now practically complete, is its final testimonial of confidence in our objectives. Our present activities, calling for a maintenance budget of well over \$100,000 in these three departments alone, exclusive of many other operations financed from other sources, will either have to be re-financed or reduced in scope to conform to the resources now in sight. If they are to be reduced, how shall this be accomplished and which of them shall be suspended? If they are to be re-financed, your representatives who are to be charged with this delicate task must have the assurance of a convinced public opinion that will support them in their efforts. . . . We happen to be committed, to have committed ourselves, to these three as our principal responsibilities as they appeared 10 years ago and largely since, and they happen to be the three most prominently mentioned both in the enlarged program and in the surveys of the Carnegie Corporation.

The decision is ours and may not be avoided nor long deferred. It is well for us to direct our best thots to these matters now.

Letters—Information and Discussion

It Pays to Advertise

Editor, LIBRARIES:

I want to thank you for publishing my letter about the Pennell book that we found in our library and to tell you that the librarian of the Ashtabula, Ohio, library saw it and recognized the book as belonging to her library. She now has it and is grateful.

CHARLOTTE E. EVANS

Librarian

Erie, Pa.

Examination

The United States Civil Service Commission invites application for associate librarian not later than July 5, to fill a vacancy in the United States Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C. Salary is \$3000 a year with advancement.

The duties are having charge of the highly specialized library of the United States Naval Observatory, which contains works on astronomy, mathematics and physics, and numerous collections of the transactions of the principal scientific societies of the world; maintaining a reference service, including the compilation of comprehensive and selective bibliographies; cataloging and classifying the material in approximately 27 languages, requiring an extensive knowledge of French and German and a working knowledge of some other language.

Competitors will not be required to report for examination but will be rated on their education, experience, and fitness. A thesis or publication must be filed with application.

To Be Had for the Asking

One does not have to be a librarian to be aware that the proverbial man in the street is daily getting more and more interested in world affairs. But the librarian is one of the first to whom that same man in the street turns for information to satisfy his growing interest. Fortunate, indeed, is he who can supply that need.

The timely appearance of *International Book News* has enabled more than one librarian to measure up to the high standard of his office when an inquirer in a hurry—of course such an inquirer is always in a hurry—asks where he may find facts and figures on some elusive but none the less important question of economics, finance, politics, health or social welfare.

This four-page bibliographical publication, *International Book News*, is published by the World Peace Foundation for the purpose of keeping the American public advised of the great variety of serviceable material made available by official and semi-official international coöperative agencies,—as well as by the World Peace Foundation itself. The *News* carries announcements of new publications on subjects of current or special interest.

This will be sent free to any librarian or other interested reader upon request. Address World Peace Foundation, 40 Mt. Vernon Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

An Interesting Correspondence

Accompanying the receipt of a recent library report was a note in which the librarian stated:

Last year in comparing the reports of different cities in one of the issues of the *Library Journal*, we stood third in towns of 15,000 to 16,000. Of the two libraries, one in California and one in Massachusetts, whose circulation was larger than ours both had almost twice the appropriation.

In answer to the question, "Don't you think we may be proud?" the following was given:

I rejoice with you in the fruits of your labor as shown by your report. Personally, while I think circulation is a good thing, it is by no means a true measuring stick of the usefulness and value of a library.

Don't do too much on a small appropriation. Everything must be paid for, and in library service, if it is not paid in money, it is paid for by the nerves and body of the library staff. This is not a criticism. It is only a warning which I am led to think librarians sometimes need.

I hope your pleasure in your process may continue and your success be commensurate with your efforts.

Whereupon the following splendid presentation was made:

Just a line of justification in answer to your letter. I do not think that circulation is by any means the only measuring stick of growth and service in a library. We have done no publicity work to increase the circulation as I felt we would be defeating our purpose if we urged more people to use the library than we could adequately serve. Also, the book supply, being limited by the appropriation, would be insufficient to furnish the timely books for which the public are asking.

Once a year, I have an apprentice class and as each applicant serves an apprenticeship, practically all the mechanical work except the more important processes, such as cataloging, etc., are done by them, thereby relieving the regular staff members and making it possible to have two people at the desk whenever necessary.

We are at present paying no attention to increase in circulation as I feel it is as large as we can handle with the staff which we now have. We are concentrating on better service in the reference department, special guidance in the children's department, and not more books per person but the best books.

Of course circulation is the only tangible thing by which to measure the usefulness of the library in a community and if we seem to emphasize it, it is because we can make comparison in actual figures.

A librarian's vision must be large, her viewpoint broad, and the service to her community never determined in her own mind by the compiled statistics on her circulation blanks.

LIBRARIAN

Wasted Opportunity

Editor, LIBRARIES:

According to the best authorities a council is "a body of men elected or appointed to constitute a more or less permanent advisory or legislative body." This definition can hardly apply to the Council of the A. L. A. as at present constituted. It is made up of fragments, old and new. It has no cohesion. It can not advise because the majority of its members are new and are not familiar with the history, progress or intention of the matters which confront them at the council sittings. There are no known precedents, no set familiar rules, all of which make for lack of dignity and earnestness of purpose, and likewise for frivolity, facetiousness and futility.

At the last meeting of the Council at West Baden, a state representative member of the Council was heard to say: "I was never so disappointed in my library career. When I was appointed here, I was thrilled at the notion of serving on the A. L. A. council and of reporting its proceedings to my less fortunate friends of the state association. But what is there to report out of all this? Nothing, absolutely nothing! I think it is worse than wasted time. It has destroyed my ideals. I wish I had not been in here! Never again for me."

Another thing that is not according to decorum and decency is the haphazard voting that takes place. At West Baden, promiscuous voting was the rule. Councilors voted or not, so did the non-members. "Open meetings" sounds liberal but it is destructive of the rules of order when visitors are mixed up in the seating with members and moved by the interest they feel are found voting without let or hindrance. The Council certainly needs attention in all its parts, even if it must come thru that dreadful procedure—revision of the constitution.

W. H. B.

Children's Book League in Oregon

The Oregon Children's Book league, organized by the state superintendent of schools and the Oregon state library in September, 1927, is proving of much interest and value in school work. It was first limited, for certification, to one-room rural schools which, after organizing a local league including at least half its school registration pledged to carry out the required reading plan, were given a state membership upon application to the Oregon state library. It is purposed later that a State school superintendent's certificate shall be granted: 1) To any enrolled child whom the teacher certifies as having read one suitable book from designated lists each month of the school year; 2) To any one-room school which has 50 per cent of its children certificated, in which at least one designated book has been

read aloud to the school, with a teacher who has read all the children's books on one of the selected lists, and carrying out, with at least 50 per cent of the children, a satisfactory reading project planned by the teacher or suggested by the library.

A gold seal certificate, signed by the governor of Oregon, the state superintendent of public instruction and the state librarian, will be issued to the school carrying the plan thru two consecutive school years. Gold seal schools may have first choice of library books.

The whole idea of the league is individual reading in the best sense to develop the habit of reading for information and recreation, and the reading should not be forced. There should be no formal book reviews, but the children should be interested in expressing their feelings about books and book friends in order to create interest in others. The teacher may suggest topics to stimulate reading projects; such as, My heroes, Children of other lands, Star land, Plant life, Poems I like, People in books whom I like and those I do not like, Places I would like to visit, Oregon and its pioneers, Life in early Oregon, How primitive man tamed animals, and other topics suggested by books in the library.

Books are lent from the State library which has 701 groups of books to lend.

Why Not?

Editor, LIBRARIES:

Is there a place in library work for such a spirit as is set out in the following?

In an address before a group of big business men, Judge Gary, head of the United States Steel Corporation, once said:

I would like to ring in the ears of every living soul on earth that, wherever they are, whatever they are doing, whomsoever they are associated with or come in contact with, it will pay them in dollars and cents if all the time they will observe the requirements of the Golden Rule.

The Library and the Woman's World's Fair

A booth devoted to library service was one of the most attractive displays at the Woman's World's Fair in Chicago, May 19-26. Miss Ahern, editor of LIBRARIES, assisted by representatives of libraries of Chicago and vicinity, managed the affair.

Each day a new type of library work was presented. On Saturday, the value of library service in schools was shown by Miss Whitcomb. Monday was A. L. A. day, when librarianship as a vocation held the chief interest, with Miss Martin, Miss Merrill and Miss Timmerman present. Research day on Tuesday was represented by Newberry and Ryerson libraries. Community library work, with Miss Wright of Evanston in charge, was emphasized on Wednesday. Fascinating lists, sent at Miss Ahern's request from libraries all over the United States, were distributed. Chief among these was the one called "Women down the centuries and today," compiled by Miss Robb and Miss May of the Wisconsin library school and published expressly for the Fair. Over 2000 copies of this list were distributed during the week. When presented with the list one woman asked, "Now have you something for the men?" and the assistant breathed a sigh of relief as she reached for one sent by the Kansas City library on "Books for business men." Almost invariably, however, the request was for lists of good fiction and books for little children.

Business libraries were presented by Miss Day. Many women preferred the lists of business books to the ones on home-making.

Saturday was Children's day, and its exhibits of what is offered to children, prepared by Miss Shea of the Chicago public library, were highly pleasing. An attractive picture-book collection and two model libraries proved of great interest to parents and teachers. Photographs of children's rooms and story-hour groups also called forth appreciative comment.

Monthly—Except August
and September

Libraries

216 W. Monroe Street
Chicago, Illinois

Mary Eileen Ahern, Editor

Subscription - - - - -	\$3 a year	Five copies to one library - - -	\$12 a year
Current single number - - - -	35 cents	Foreign subscriptions - - -	\$3.50 a year

By the rules of the banks of Chicago, an exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or postoffice money-orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at market prices.

Contributions for current numbers of **LIBRARIES** should be in hand by the fifteenth of the month previous to the appearance of the magazine. Advertisements for which proof is not required can be accepted as late as the twenty-second of the previous month.

A. L. A. Meeting at West Baden

GONE for another year, the annual meeting of the A. L. A.! It was a pleasant occasion that left a taste of happiness growing out of the delightful meeting place, the joy of seeing old friends and making new ones, a mental refreshment from hearing worth-while discussions on professional matters and the pleasure of putting personality to well-known names that had long been abstract admirations. Not for many years has the meeting place been so ideal. A first class hotel in all that term implies in a quiet setting, free from outside crowds, from noise and the dust of city, surrounded by the natural beauty of the fields and hills with an added beauty from landscape gardening,—all a great delight, with restfulness in the very air.

The programs were unusually good and interesting, both general and special meetings. Some speakers appealed more strongly than others ac-

cording to the hearer's interest, but all the papers were good. There was a fine professional spirit manifest thru all of them. Occasionally one heard complaint that a speaker "mumbled his words" but fairness would place the reason for this on other things.

President Roden kept the general meetings moving from start to finish, and his own quiet dignity without austerity gave a tone to the proceedings that was most appropriate. That some speakers exceeded the limit of time that marks the end of interest on the part of an audience was true, but there were extenuating circumstances in the very few instances noted. The "liveliness" of the proceedings and discussion in the various sections added greatly to the interest and enjoyment.

Taken all in all, the A. L. A. meeting of 1928 may be recorded in the history of the Association as one of the most satisfactory, viewed from every standpoint.

New A. L. A. President

THE election of Miss Eastman as president of the A. L. A. ushers in the fourth woman president in the 52 years of the Association's history. Miss Eastman is too well known and respected among her co-workers to make her election a subject of further comment.¹ It was a foregone conclusion after the nomination. But moreover, the membership of the A. L. A., it has been estimated, is made up of 11 women to one man, so the election of a woman president without an opponent was a foregone conclusion, and that feminine prejudice did not bring about the result is shown by the result in the rest of the ticket, for where in every case a man and a woman were proposed for office, the man was elected. This would seem definitely to answer the question which sometimes arises, why there are not more women in the administrative offices of the A. L. A. Of the 13 members of the Executive board, five are women.

That Miss Eastman's administrative ability as well as her wise counsel is

appreciated outside of library circles as well as within is attested by her membership in a number of municipal organizations in Cleveland where it would seem that the library job itself was sufficiently large to consume all the time and strength one person could give. Cleveland is counted in the front rank of librarianship in the United States. In 1927, it had a circulation of more than 8,000,000v. thru 1181 agencies and spent \$1,500,000. It has a staff of 1168 employees.

In addition, Miss Eastman is professor in the School of library science, Western Reserve University. She is the author of several monographs on library administration and has had several terms as a member of the Executive board of A. L. A. and of many of its important committees.

The A. L. A. may well look forward to a successful year with steady progress and a calm unruffled procedure as far as its head executive officer is concerned. The membership will delight in following the lead of so efficient and desirable a president.

¹ See p. 194.

A Weekly List of Government Publications

A RECENT announcement that is heartily welcomed by almost the entire library world as well as by great numbers of other people is the statement that there will be issued thru the Public Printing office a weekly list of government publications beginning July 1 or as soon after as is possible to get it started.

This is a plan which has aroused interest for many years and for which much work has been expended. Miss Edith Guerrier of the Boston public library has been especially interested in

this and the library craft owes her an unusual debt of gratitude for the personal service she has rendered at her own expense of money and time. Heretofore, there has been no source of timely information concerning current publications of the United States government, and information concerning each particular document had to be secured, if secured it might be, by personal effort thru personal offices. The new publication will be a time and labor-saver of much value. Librarians are much pleased.

Dedication of University of Louvain Library

On July 4, 1928, it is expected that the new library building of Louvain University in Belgium will be dedicated. It will be an international affair and will serve as an historical milestone in the progress of international friendliness. Many important societies and persons have been invited to take part in the dedication, particularly from America. The restoration of the library, which was burned by the German invaders, has been the gift of Americans of every kind and class, from the Carnegie Foundation down to the little school children who joyfully brought their pennies for that purpose.

The Engineering Foundation of the United States, representing the societies of civil, mining, mechanical and electrical engineers, has presented to the University a clock with four dials and a carillon of 48 bells, one for each state, at a cost of \$80,000, in memory of the engineers of America who gave their lives in the war.

Last year, the five-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the University was celebrated, and now with the new library celebration in July, much good feeling has been generated. The Germans have restored many of the books carried away and have replaced many volumes destroyed. The loss of ms. was incalculable but here, also, valuable collections of ms. have been sent from Germany in place of those that were in the library when it burned. The library has now 600,000v., the result of large gifts from all the world. There is room in the new library for 2,000,000v. Mr Whitney Warren of New York designed the new building and gave special personal attention to its erection.

A great price was paid for an intangible something which it is well to have symbolized.

The whole world will rejoice and wish that the new library and its clock will be another sacred earnest of peace on earth, good-will to men.

A Survey of Library Discontent

The special report of the Committee on promotions and salary increases to the council of the New York Public Library Staff association is full of interest and forms a basis for study not only for the New York but for other libraries as well. The committee was elected by the Staff Representatives council to discuss a list of grievances which had been presented by three branches. The complaints had to do with salary increases and promotions.

The first thing was a thoro survey of the method of granting salary increases and promotions, the present scheme of service; next, to hear the opinions prevailing among all groups and classes of the library staff and of any individual who had special complaints to present. The report attempts to give adequately the sum and substance of the criticisms made and grievances presented, and to present a comprehensive analysis of the situation with recommendations as to possible remedial measures. A list of some of the concrete cases brought to the attention of the committee is appended to the report.

The report was printed and distributed to all members of the staff, the administration, and to each member of the board of trustees. The report is unique in the method of its presentation, in the matters considered, and the conclusions reached. There is not room for fair judgment on the part of one not acquainted with the situation, but, nevertheless, it is a report that should be read carefully with an open mind and a desire to be fair in conclusion. The concrete cases reported give much room for query as to what the real facts in the situation might be. Mere statement as given in the report is hardly adequate to deducing correct conclusions.

Whatever the facts may be in reality, the exhibit of them can but do good. Moving in the dark has a certain hazard.

Thoughts shut up want air,
And spoil like bales unopened to the sun.

Retirement of W. C. Lane

William Coolidge Lane, librarian of Harvard University libraries since 1898, has resigned. Mr Lane has been one of the substantial members of the library craft since 1887. He is a scholarly man of quiet demeanor, with a reserved but genial disposition. Those who know him well render him full measure of regard and respect.

He was born in Massachusetts and has lived there all his life. He is a graduate of Harvard where he was assistant-librarian, 1887-1893. He was librarian of the Boston Athenaeum, 1893-98, since which time he has been at Harvard University. He was president of A. L. A., 1898-99; Bibliographical Society of America, 1904-09. He was secretary-treasurer and later chairman of the A. L. A. Publishing Board, 1886-1907. He has held high rank in Harvard activities and is a member of a number of learned societies.

Mr Lane wisely retires while his physical strength and mental vigor are still undiminished, with the purpose of devoting himself to work for which he has found no time in the busy life of a librarian, and for travels which his duties as a librarian prevented him from enjoying.

Public Libraries and its staff owed much to the friendly interest and fair treatment of Mr Lane, both as an officer of the A. L. A. and as a librarian of standing. *LIBRARIES* (the successor of that publication) extends acknowledgment of its indebtedness to Mr Lane and extends to him all good wishes for a happy, prosperous and serene life during the remainder of his journey.

Lower Postal Rates for Libraries

Libraries which circulate books thru the mail on occasion will rejoice that the bill was finally passed by Congress in which the postal rate granted to libraries is considerably lower than it was before.

The conference report on the Griest bill, HR 12030, as amended by the Senate committee on post offices and post roads was adopted on May 26.

The president signed the bill May 29 and the new rates will become effective on July 1, 1928. The bill provides for a special rate on library books for local delivery and in the first three zones or within the state, the rate is three cents for the first pound and one cent for each additional pound or fraction. It provides also that "the rates now or hereafter prescribed for third or fourth class matter shall apply in every case where such rate is lower than the rate prescribed herein for books under this classification." The law also provides that "public libraries, organizations or associations before being entitled to the foregoing rates shall furnish to the Postmaster General under such regulations as he may prescribe, satisfactory evidence that none of the net income of such organizations inures to the benefit of any private stockholder or individual." It would be well, therefore, for librarians to ask their local postmasters for a proper form to fill out before attempting to mail books at these special rates.

So far, so good. The next step is to get lower postal rates for all books sent to any part of the country, particularly when a special rate is granted to magazines and newspapers. To do otherwise would be to discriminate against educational activities.

Fletcher Pratt in the May *Mercury* gives what he calls a Glance at the public libraries. His title is well taken. It must have been a very cursory glance to have furnished him with the mistaken ideas which he sets out in the iconoclastic periodical that thrives on such material.

There is always just a hint of truth in what the Pounds, Menckens and Pratts say, and their comments are not to be altogether derided, but the untruths they utter are so absurd in the main that it is unmistakably shown that their own snap judgments have been used and no questions asked. This is a pity for them, but most for library service which they might help but do not.

Proceedings of Fiftieth Annual Meeting of A. L. A.

Only a partial report of the West Baden meeting is presented in this number of LIBRARIES for several reasons. Some of the reports came too late to be included. Some papers are a bit long for this kind of a number and ought to be considered carefully before using. Some material is to be sent in later, and too much at this time will not be as well received by librarians interested as smaller portions at various times later. It is all good library doctrine and there is much pleasure in giving place to this portion at this time.—Editor.

A. L. A. Meeting in Indiana

The American Library Association held its fiftieth annual meeting at West Baden Springs, Indiana, May 28-June 2. The attendance register showed 1300 but a considerable number attended one or two days without registering, some did not register at all, so one is safe in saying that the attendance was much larger.

Headquarters were at the West Baden hotel which is unique in arrangement. The main part of the hotel goes under the name of "Atrium," claiming to be the largest single room, with a glass roof. It is 208 feet in diameter and 150 feet high. It is very well ventilated and has a stationary temperature. The guest rooms are arranged around this court, facing either outdoors where there are beautiful gardens or looking out with balconies on the Atrium onto the busy scenes below. The upper part of the house is devoted to baths and medical departments, swimming pools, etc. The grounds and gardens surrounding the hotel are beautiful either as landscaped gardens or as playgrounds for tennis, golf, etc.

The guests were entertained at the two hotels, West Baden Springs and French Lick. There was a constant good natured rivalry as to which group was the better housed. The majority were very much in favor of West Baden for natural reasons.

Special trains took the librarians from various parts of the country, those from the North and East converging at Indianapolis, and those from the South and West at Louisville. There was the usual standing line for registration which never seems to gather any charm for those who are compelled to go thru it, but by early evening matters had settled into satisfactory shape.

The speaker's stand in the Atrium, variously referred to as "up in the world," "igloo" and "covered wagon," was a real novelty to most of the audience and a grievous burden to the speakers. Fortunately it was used infrequently.

The program for the first evening, unintentionally and without collusion, had a reminiscent tinge, the president's address (see p. 341) being a review of the years since the war, a setting forth of the duties that the conditions and needs of the time had imposed. Miss Ahern reviewed a Cycle of library service which has fallen under her own observation and experience, pointing out thereby the goodly heritage of the library development in the Middle West which had been received from its immediate predecessors, and emphasizing the duty of the present generation to pass on in like measure as was given to them, advanced ideas of service to those who shall come after them.

It was a great treat to the audience to see and hear Meredith Nicholson in person, for Mr Nicholson was pretty well known to most of the audience thru his books and various other writings. Mr Nicholson reviewed the contribution of Indiana to the literature of its day and humorously named romance as the reason for many of the curious phenomena apparent in the public life of Indiana today. His personal reminiscences of the literary men of the last 40 years were most interesting. (See p. 359.)

The Mexican delegates were introduced to the meeting by Mr Vance, librarian of the Law library of the Library of Congress. The visitors were greeted with applause.

At the close of the exercises, the Atrium was cleared of the chairs and a pleasant hour in renewing acquaint-

ances, meeting new friends, and general greetings closed the evening.

The second general session on Tuesday morning was made up of serious discussion on questions that are engaging the minds of library administrators today. The speakers were Mr Compton of St. Louis, Mr Cavanaugh of Indiana University, and Mr Dudgeon of Milwaukee, each of whom presented his ideas on library topics of the time. Mr Compton and Mr Dudgeon dealt with adult education in the library, and Mr Cavanaugh compared the similarity and differences and the mutual obligations of "Library service in university extension."

At the third general session Mr Belden, of the Boston public library, discussed "Library service in an understanding world," which was a plea for progress and advancement without being tied down by precedent and custom, but with vision made sufficiently keen to recognize the growing needs of a world that has advanced and with it the character, extent and duty of library service.

Dr Putnam both informed and entertained the audience by his interesting account of some recent developments in the Library of Congress which makes it in fact, if not officially by name, the national library. The development of the past 31 years in extent, influence and condition was set out especially. The patent duties to be performed when the extent and value of the collection presented itself in the first survey of it and the various measures, methods and plans that had been adopted and developed to organize and make effective the collection when it was moved into the new building, as well as the additions and development of material acquired since that time, were all related most interestingly.

Dr Putnam dwelt particularly on the new acquisition of expert service by men who are possessed of special knowledge of material, its history and its possible uses, and on the installation of "chairs," which has come about in very recent years, to bridge over a

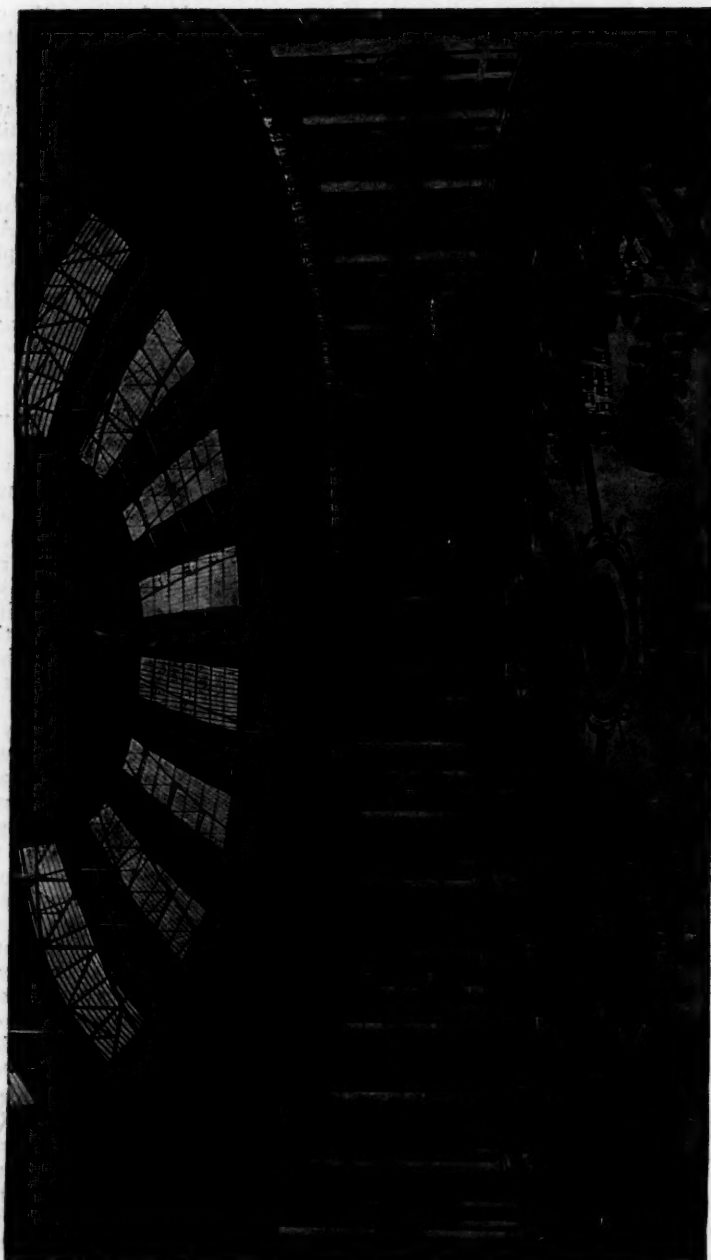
gap that in spite of technicians and apparatus remains between the collections and the public. Specialists who have reached the age of retirement from teaching or research and who have accumulated understanding, knowledge and experience and still possess physical vigor for more years of effort, are capable of service which in such a library may be highly useful. Dr Putnam cited the late Richard A. Rice and Dr Richardson as examples of what he meant.

After most interestingly pointing out various growths, accretions in and extension of the contents and work of the Library of Congress, Dr Putnam closed as follows:

"We have far to go, and many levels still to reach. In even the fundamentals 'our house is not yet in order' and won't be till we have caught up with the classification, the cataloging and the production of the cards. There is in fact no single particular, save one, in which we are not defective. But that one is an asset. It is—optimism."

Senorita Bringas, head of the Library department of the Ministry of Education, City of Mexico, was an attractive speaker and her fluent use of English was a surprise to many of her audience, while her delightful personality quite captured their admiration. She told the delegates what is being done toward establishing rural and school libraries in Mexico, stating that the movement toward more libraries in Mexico is strongly sponsored by President Calles.

The fourth session was like unto the second and third in that reports of national movements were discussed by those interested and capable of presenting worth while dissertations on their various subjects. Miss Donnelly of Simmons College read a most illuminating paper on Library education more abundant. She stressed the fact that library education had reached the point where school traditions were not to be regarded as sacrosanct but should be adapted to the present needs and adopted to meet the widely vary-



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ing conditions that are met in the library service of today.

The report of the Board of Education for Librarianship was given by Dr Louis R. Wilson of North Carolina, and Library extension as a national responsibility was presented by Miss Tyler of Western Reserve University, her paper being read by Miss Sargeant-Smith. The report of the committee on Library extension by Mr Lester, the secretary, reviewed the new work that had been taken up and the old carried on during the year. At this meeting, Mr Bishop who had just returned from Rome told of the very interesting experience he and his colleagues had enjoyed in their work on the catalog started for the Vatican library.

The fifth and last meeting on Saturday morning had but the one paper, that of such a quality as to merit the admiration and close attention of the audience. Effie Powers of the Cleveland public library discussed The children's library in a changing world. Miss Powers reviewed very comprehensively the development of children's work to the present and then pointed out the necessity of making the work more vital in the development of children's character and a larger contribution to their formal education than it has been in the past.

The various committee reports were received and after introducing Miss Eastman, who responded in a few pleasant words, and the other newly elected members of the Executive Board, President Roden declared the meeting adjourned.

The entertainment for Friday night was planned by the Indiana committee on entertainment. It was a most entertaining spectacle and absorbed considerable attention and effort on the part of the four or five hundred who participated. It was a pageant mostly representing characters in books of all kinds, public personages and representatives of the world. Prizes were awarded for the most representative masks and the evening

closed with a motley assemblage of dancers made up of farmers, clowns, ladies of court, school children, the Devil, "Big Bill" and others. The masks and costumes faded away as the evening went on, owing to the superabundance of clothing that had been assumed by many of the merry-makers. It was a merry matter of astonishment when the company unmasked to see most unexpectedly who was who in the various disguises. Pluto and Young Chicago were universal favorite maskers, as they are in their own personalities.

One of the pleasant features of the week was a reception tendered the guests by former U. S. Senator Thomas Taggart in the gardens of the French Lick hotel. The Japanese garden, the sunken garden, the terraces, the ponds, birds and flowers made a wonderfully beautiful setting which was thoroly enjoyed by the guests. This was the only local entertainment that broke in on the list of programs for the week. Senator Taggart was most cordial in his greetings and hospitality.

Result of election

The following officers were elected: President, Linda A. Eastman, librarian, Public library, Cleveland, Ohio; first vice-president, Malcolm G. Wyer, librarian, Public library, Denver, Colorado; second vice-president, Harriet A. Wood, State assistant director and supervisor School libraries, Minnesota Department of Education, St. Paul; treasurer, Matthew S. Dudgeon, librarian, Public library, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. To Executive Board: H. M. Lydenberg, chief reference librarian, New York public library, New York City; Joseph L. Wheeler, librarian, Enoch Pratt free library, Baltimore, Maryland. Trustee of Endowment fund: George Woodruff, The National Bank of the Republic, Chicago.

The following members were elected to the Council: Edith M. Coulter, reference librarian, University of California library, and assistant professor, School of librarianship; Jennie M. Flexner, head of circulation department, Free public library, Louisville, Ky.; Paul M. Paine, librarian, Public library, Syracuse, New York; Bessie Sargeant-Smith, supervisor of branches, Public library, Cleveland, Ohio; Forest B. Spaulding, librarian, Public library, Des Moines, Iowa.

Resolutions

The committee on resolutions brought in the usual report expressing thanks and appreciation for those who, in their judgment, had added to the success of the meeting and the work of the A. L. A.

The following resolutions were adopted at a meeting of representatives of the International Relations committee, the Committee on library relations with Hispanic peoples, the Executive board, and the Mexican guests present at the A. L. A.:

I) *Resolved*, That this group desires to express its cordial and sincere gratification over the action at the Sixth International conference of American states at Havana in January, 1928, establishing an Inter-American Technical Commission of Bibliography. It welcomes this as one more step toward practical coöperation in standardizing bibliographical and library methods, and as offering a prospect of substantial coöperation between scholars and libraries thruout the Americas.

II) *Resolved*, That this group favors the following:

1) The interchange of library personnel, including students of library science, librarians and assistants in libraries, teachers of librarianship, and lecturers upon topics of library work and bibliography, with provision for fellowships and scholarships to facilitate such exchange.

2) The liberal exchange of publications thru an enlargement of the service of the bureau of international exchanges in our respective countries, and other existing agencies for the exchange of books. We have in mind the exchange of documents, those of the federal governments, of the several states and of municipalities; the exchange of publications between institutions of learning, and the exchange of duplicates between libraries.

3) The fullest exchange of bibliographical information. (The Mexican delegates state that they will undertake the publication of monthly list of all government and private publications as a contribution to Mexican contemporary bibliography, thru the Bibliographical section of the Library department of the Ministry of Education of Mexico.)

4) The inclusion of Mexican libraries in the Library of Congress lists of special collections.

5) A suggestion to the Librarian of Congress to extend the information service for scholars as to the location of books, to locations in Mexico of Mexican titles not to be found in the United States.

6) Measures looking toward the adoption of uniform catalog rules for all countries.

7) The exchange between Mexico, the United States and Canada of exhibits illustrating the cultural development of the respective countries.

8) Every possible encouragement to the translation into Spanish of library publications issued in the United States which are likely to be useful in Spanish-speaking countries.

9) The preparation of brief lists of American books, especially children's books, for use in Mexican libraries and for translation into Spanish.

10) A request that librarians of the United States give encouragement and aid in the development of the department of the National library of Mexico devoted to books about the United States of America.

11) A request to the Children's Librarians' section of the A. L. A. to form a collection of children's books published in the United States and to send it, completely cataloged, to the Lincoln library in Mexico.

12) The participation of Mexican librarians as members of the A. L. A. in all the activities of the Association as a means of promoting progress and intellectual coöperation.

13) The publication of the proceedings of the meetings of this group in both Spanish and English.

14) In view of the opportunities for international coöperation revealed by this conference, we express the hope that future conferences may be held which will include representatives from the libraries of all the Americas.

The John Newbery medal, given each year by Frederic G. Melcher of the R. R. Bowker Publishing Company, New York City, was awarded this year to Dhan Gopal Mukerji for his book *Gay-Neck*. Mr Mukerji was a visitor at the convention and his wit and wisdom were much enjoyed by the librarians. There were autographed copies of Mr Mukerji's book in the various book exhibits where a rushing business was done in disposing of them to admiring librarians.

Conference impressions

Library retrospect, introspect and prospect was the theme of the West Baden conference, whether the message took the form of a presidential address carefully worded to suit exact thot; a comprehensive survey of Mexican libraries, not confined to later years of administration; Plans for the unification of the 11 catalogs of the Vatican library, concisely and interestingly given; History of the Library of Congress; and The library in an understanding world.

Subjects were large, some too large for fleeting time, others were models of conciseness. The history of Indiana libraries by M. E. Ahern took note of the present and paid due tribute to the past.

The literary flavor was given by the presence of Meredith Nicholson, and the thot of Mukerji, the winner of the Newbery medal. His suggestion for daily meditation prompted some to ask, "Why not a speechless conference when 75 minutes were consumed on one topic?"

Porch conferences resolved themselves into round-tables, not scheduled on the program. Such weighty problems as The South as a missionary field grew debatable.

The round-table of the League of library commissions was full of pep, discussion and humor. The saving grace of the leaders redeeming it from disedifying Mississippi.

The distinctive feature of the conference was the night life, when Romeos and Juliets sought the balconies overlooking the Atrium, when lights winked and people became a part of the passing show. "Brown's" added to the psychology of librarianship, where interesting experiments in Adult Education taxed the classes, and the fiftieth conference passed into history accompanied by lofty thot, lengthy expression and the ripe experience of 1700 members of the A. L. A.

REBEL

Place: Unique headquarters hotel. Accommodations generally satisfactory both at West Baden and French Lick.

Programs: General conference programs, while of interest, were too long with the result that the audiences were not held thruout the sessions. The criticism of length also applies to a number of the addresses. The programs carried, perhaps, overmuch of retrospection. Section meetings and round-table conferences were, for the most part, unusually live and stimulating. The Council meetings, unfortunately, were only of a routine nature.

Some satisfactions: Ability to hold "porch and lobby" conferences with individuals and groups; a pervading spirit of friendliness; numerous attractive exhibits of a commercial nature, unusually well placed and displayed, all of which received merited attention.

The exhibits of the Children's section, Public Documents round-table and of the A. L. A. not only awakened new interest but their "locations" served as temporary headquarters for those who sought additional aid or information. The variety of such association exhibits might well be extended and developed at future conferences.

C. F. D. B.

Here is an expression of my real opinion of A. L. A. The meeting was inspiring and has increased my zeal for work. But I have several criticisms of the program to offer.

1) As the librarian of a small library, and one with a limited acquaintance with other librarians which prohibited me from being included in informal round-table discussions in lobbies and elsewhere, I should have profited from more sections devoted to the small library. By small library I mean one with 10 to 15 thousand volumes and not the one which A. L. A. considers small, such as Evansville and El Paso.

2) Many of the topics assigned for papers called for too much retrospection. I need to hear notable librarians point the way into the future and present new material and new ideas, rather than tell something which I have read in a library magazine.

3) Some of the papers were too long, and their presentation too monotonous. I longed for more spontaneity.

4) Since our stock in trade is books, I should have liked more talk about them. Altho in every spare moment I read reviews and the books themselves, I can never learn enough about them.

5) I had hoped that the program would contain more talks by literary and artistic celebrities.

If my criticism shows that I fail to understand the purpose of the convention, I'm open for reproof.

HAZEL BURK

The thing which impressed me most forcibly about the West Baden conference was its really human atmosphere. The discussions were spirited at times, the papers were well thot out as a rule and quite serious enough even for our profession and there was apparently no desire to minimize in any way the importance of libraries and their work. At the same time, the conference lacked that intensive evangelism which has sometimes been so apparent and which, at least to some of the older members like myself, does not always carry conviction. As the importance of our work is more generally recognized and as our libraries increase in size and amount of work, it is perhaps inevitable that they will become standardized and institutionalized. Nevertheless, let us hope that the day is far distant when we shall fail to make the human contacts which are the real reason for most libraries and their staffs. We should be grateful to West Baden and our Indiana hosts for helping us keep alive the importance of these contacts.

FRANK K. WALTER,

The location—it was as lovely a spot, surely, as could be found in the Middle West. For me, as for many others no doubt, it was a surprising educational experience to discover so many square miles of hills in southern Indiana.

The "contacts"—something was wrong. In spite of endless looking I have only the Register and hearsay as evidence that many people I wished most to see were

actually present. Was there some secret hiding-place which I, in my innocence, did not discover!

The meetings—too long, too much program. Speaker Number Four—and he appeared with great frequency—could, I should think, speak with feeling on this subject. And is there any reason why a pleasant round-table meeting should so often strive to emulate the sectional meeting with its formal program? Isn't there still a distinct place, even in so large a gathering as an A. L. A. conference now calls forth, for the informal and profitable get-together of the real round-table?

AMY WINSLOW

The A. L. A. is to be congratulated on the large organization and the professional spirit that it took with it to West Baden, Indiana. Of all educational groups, this association is an outstanding one for its great activity, its progressiveness, enthusiasm, and its professional and family spirit.

Every individual gave generously and unstintingly of all in his power to make each contact and every meeting of the greatest value to even the youngest of those interested in library service. The stimulation received at such a gathering is vital for any library.

It seemed to me that the 1928 conference was made particularly inspiring by papers which revealed what libraries and librarians are doing towards strengthening and the betterment of international relations. One came away believing that the A. L. A. was undertaking much that is fine and that the Association is made up of people who are doing work, whether it be called "professional" or not, which commands one's best efforts, and, having a future of continuously greater opportunity, we need make no reservations in urging young people to take up library work.

WALTER L. BROWN

My chief impression of the West Baden conference, collected from my point of "disadvantage" as president, is that it was made up of fewer meetings, but that they were unusually well attended and were, on the whole, exceptionally profitable. This refers to the sections and round tables which all drew crowds and were characterized by much eager interest and professional zeal, as well as to the general sessions. Over all there dwelt a delightful spirit of informal Indiana hospitality which, without the aid of special social events or features, succeeded in imparting to the week's proceedings a pleasant air of comfortable and unhurried sociability.

C. B. RODEN

I was much moved by seeing so many persons of whose work I think I know a lot, but of whose personality I know nothing. I am glad to say I was not disappointed, only some of them were not as old as I expected to see them. Miss Moore

of New York, Miss Eastman, Miss Ahern, Mr Rush, Mrs Carr, Miss Bogle, Mr Tolman, Mr Lester, Mr Munn, and others have long been familiar names to me. I was thrilled to see their owners. It was my first A. L. A. meeting. I hope it will not be my last one.

SUN JUNIOR.

I liked the place, the people and the meetings. I want you all to come south next time.

SOUTHERNER.

Home-coming at Evansville, Ind.

The "Home-Coming" of the staff of the Public library of Evansville, Indiana, held June 2-3, celebrated the sixteenth birthday of the staff under the direction of Miss Ethel F. McCollough, librarian.

The proximity of Evansville to West Baden made it possible to have a very pleasant reunion of former staff members after the A. L. A. meeting.

The festivities opened with an evening party on the lawn of the East Side branch at which a little play "As others see us" was cleverly given, recalling entertaining incidents in the history of the Evansville staff. The Sunday morning breakfast at the Y. W. C. A. attended by 70 guests, representing past and present assistants, was another happy occasion at which reminiscences and experiences were exchanged. This was followed by a delightful tea given by Miss McCollough at her home on Sunday afternoon. Later in the week a tea was held at the Central library at which the babies of the staff were guests of honor.

The fact that former assistants came from Colorado and New York City to be present at the reunion was evidence of their appreciation of Miss McCollough's inspiring leadership and the spirit of coöperation and friendliness which has always pervaded her staff.

Among the out of town guests who enjoyed the hospitality of the Evansville public library staff were Ruth Adamson, Terre Haute; Mary Corson, Waukesha, Wisconsin; Alma Moeck Kaiser, South Bend; Johanna Klingholz and Ruth McCollough, Flint, Michigan; Georgie McAfee, Lima, Ohio; Elsie McKay, Oak Park, Illinois; Edith Mattson and Agatha

Shea, Chicago; Gertrude Weil Starrells, Lincoln, Nebraska; Dorothy Gipp Taylor, New York City, and Iva Watson, Greeley, Colorado.

It was a most delightful idea carried out with hospitality and genuine friendliness.

Miss Anne Carroll Moore, on whom descended the spiritual cloak of Miss Hewins, delighted her many admirers, who know her only thru her work, by her presence and the interest she showed in what the children's librarians were developing in their work. She was cordially received and her words of counsel were well received.

The library schools no longer absorb all the group dinner interest. As many other groups, if not more, came together around the festal board, renewing memories of other days and scenes. At the forefront of these was Mrs Carr's "pioneer" dinner group whose fame has spread, till many who hardly looked eligible were present this year. But others dodged the issue despite their wrinkles and gray hair. Mrs Carr was her usual, cheerful, efficient self and her beaming smile gave a genial atmosphere to the occasion. There is only one Mrs Carr.

As it is in Indiana

Meredith Nicholson, one of Indiana's favorite sons from several viewpoints, gave an interesting review of the growth of Indiana. He said in part:

Fundamentally Indiana is as sound as is the nation—her present mental state is only temporary.

Your libraries probably have a lot of cross references in their indexes of modern literature that are none too happy for Hoosierland. But you have others. No state has contributed more than Indiana to enrich the national life.

Ever since George Rogers Clark's victory at Vincennes, Indiana has been much in the picture of American democracy. It has contributed to the life and vigor of the nation in war and peace.

We have not always been right, but mainly we have meant well. We have in recent years been badly advertised by curious manifestations in our politics. But some of these disturbances I would attribute to the

strong romantic element in the Hoosier blood.

You have probably asked yourselves why a state so strong on its cultural side should have fallen prey to the enticements of the Ku Klux Klan. I assure you that that was only the play spirit running away with the sober judgment of our people.

To play hallowe'en games in corn fields under the Hoosier stars—all dressed up in pillow cases and sheets—is only the eternal spirit of the mischievous boy who puts ticktacks on the neighbor's windows.

I would seriously call attention to Indiana as the best possible laboratory for the study of social and political tendencies. With all the political scandals we have had there have been constantly at work the forces for betterment that have already shown noteworthy vigor and won encouraging success.

It is to be said for the Hoosier that he is animated by a great curiosity. Missouri has nothing on us when it comes to wanting to be shown. We are prone to experiment and we are not afraid to change our minds.

Among the first settlers were folk of a high degree of cultivation. In 1825, the New Harmony settlement brought folks of the highest scientific and literary attainments. Books of great value were not only written and published but the first woman's club in America was formed there.

Arthur T. Walden, author of *A dog-puncher on the Yukon*, with Chinook, his famous sledgedog, has been selected to accompany Commander Richard Byrd on his expedition to the South Pole. A Hoosier by birth, he was an old-timer along the Yukon before the gold strike, and has celebrated these turbulent days in this thrilling volume of reminiscences.

Mr Nicholson gave opinions regarding a number of Indiana authors based on personal knowledge of them. He spoke interestingly of Lew Wallace, the Eggleston brothers, Riley, Thompson and others. Mr Nicholson's presence at the meeting was greatly enjoyed.

Report on the Dana letter

The report of the special committee to consider the communication addressed to the A. L. A. Council last winter by J. C. Dana was mimeographed and distributed at the meeting on Tuesday night.

The discussion was divided into three parts:

1) Information about association activities. The committee recommended:

a) That there be prepared regularly a sufficient number of copies of the us-

ual Executive Board minutes, with the exception of matters necessarily given in confidence, for distribution to such members of the association as may apply for them.

b) That the Program committee be asked to consider the scheduling of statements by the heads of the major association activities at sessions of the annual conference.

c) That there be a special printing in an early number of the *Bulletin* of Headquarters professional (non-clerical) salaries, by name and position, classified according to activities and supplemented by summaries indicating total current receipts and disbursements for each activity.

Diligent study of all that may be issued in line with the above is urged upon the membership as precedent to an effective comment on Association affairs.

2) Sanctions for new activities. Initiation of all the new projects has been approved directly or indirectly by the Council, the policy determining body of the Association. Re-endorsement has been implied in the acceptance of the annual reports covering them. The Council has power at any moment to check or alter the policy involved in any project. Oversight of details must perforce be left to a body small enough to meet frequently and to feel intimate responsibility. Some more formal review of policies than has heretofore been practiced, particularly with reference to increased budgets, may be desirable.

3) Merits of projects. Referring to the various projects, the committee states that widespread approval of the ideas underlying them is demonstrated by the service given in their promotion by hundreds of the most able people of the profession, most of which service has been without remuneration. If the work has seemed costly it is because conference, travel, and competent leadership have been essential.

The Board of Education for librarianship has aimed to establish standards rather than to standardize. The commission on Adult Education and the Library is seeking to make more general in application methods long familiar to a few pioneers. That a new name has come into use is an incident which neither adds to nor detracts from the merit of the movement. The Committee on library extension has taken the first steps in studying the country-wide field and its wants. The Survey volumes are proving valuable to those who require an encyclopedia of practice. Their cost of production and volume of sales to the present time can hardly be considered a measure of their value. The Curriculum study is effecting a more rapid production of textbooks, which never came fast enough and never can come fast enough.

In regard to the Survey and related points, the committee is of the opinion that the ideas behind the several undertakings were worth testing and that no appraisal of their ultimate value is yet possible or to be expected. It recalls that the Council has accepted them and much of the membership has coöperated in them, and they hold promise of usefulness, subject to adequate trial.

The committee believes that provision in advance is desirable for evaluating the projects when their results have had time for development and penetration. For this it recommends a periodic scrutiny of Association activities within three years and not less frequently than every third year thereafter, by a committee to be appointed by the president.

The report closes by quoting a letter from the president of the Carnegie Corporation, stating that "our relations with the American Library Association have been strikingly satisfactory from our point of view." This and other statements make clear the opinion regarding its management held by the association's chief donor.

There was considerable discussion by a few members and the report of the special committee was adopted as the opinion of the Council.

This report is available to any member of the association and should be carefully studied by those interested, which ought to mean every member of the association, particularly in view of the names appended to the report: Ernest J. Reece, chairman, Walter L. Brown, Theresa Hitchler, Franklin F. Hopper, and Mary U. Rothrock.

Paris library school

It is announced that the Paris library school will continue for another year. A recent contribution of \$3000 from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace raises the fund already contributed by the friends of the school to \$19,160. Contributions to the incomplete fund may still be sent to A. L. A. Headquarters, 86 East Randolph Street, Chicago.

Already the entrance applications for the next year exceed the number of students that can be accommodated in the school. It is very difficult to make choice in a group that are all well prepared to take up the work. The majority of the applicants come from outside of France.

Reports from meetings of sections
Cataloging

The Catalog section held three meetings: the general session, the round-table for small libraries, and the round-table on classification for large libraries.

Miss Minnie E. Sears presided at the general session. These days when so much is being said in regard to international coöperation, it was fitting that two papers of this broader interest were presented. Dr C. C. Williamson, Columbia University libraries, answered the question: Can the printed catalog of the *Bibliothèque Nationale* be completed in 10 years? While an affirmative answer may be possible, the speaker presented a plan, approved by the conference of Eastern librarians, whereby the catalog can be completed in 12 years. It aims to secure funds thru the voluntary financial coöperation of American and British libraries and then if required, seek supplementary aid from an educational endowment. It will be necessary in the first place to find enough libraries willing to buy the available 45 sets of 90 volumes which bring the catalog down to the word *LeCompte* and, secondly, to ask these libraries, as well as those already owning sets, to pay henceforth \$10 for each additional volume published. Information will be sent later to all libraries likely to be interested. The section voted to go on record as endorsing this suggestion.

Plans for cataloging the Vatican library were presented informally by Mr W. W. Bishop, University of Michigan. The speaker has from the beginning been in close touch with this work, made possible by the Carnegie Foundation. The Pope, once a librarian himself, has expressed personal interest in this undertaking by which valuable treasures of the Vatican library are to be made available for research to scholars thruout the world.

Suggestions were presented for the more satisfactory arrangement of the

League of Nations publications. It was voted that the Catalog section request the Council of the American Library Association to make urgent representations to the proper authorities of the League of Nations, to establish an official and permanent order of arrangement of the documents already issued, to print title-pages and contents-sheets to facilitate binding them in composite volumes according to this official arrangement, and in the future at the end of each year to issue title-pages and contents-sheets for the year's product.

The Committee on coöperating cataloging, in view of the fact that college and university libraries are reporting that from 25 to 75 per cent of their annual accessions are not covered by Library of Congress titles, recommended to the Catalog section that resolutions be adopted whereby the Catalog section presents the situation to the A. L. A. Council and requests an appropriation to pay for a serious study of the situation by a competent person and that he be responsible to and report to the A. L. A. catalog committee. The investigation suggested should cover the whole field of the extension of cataloging service as now rendered by the Library of Congress. The investigator should outline a practicable working program. The section voted that its incoming chairman continue this committee and that it be asked to make a detailed statement of the cost of such an investigation for presentation to the American Library Association.

The Committee on the formation of regional groups reported that the Ontario regional group was organized in June, 1927, and that there is a possibility in the near future of the formation of a regional group for Western Canada.

The following officers were elected: Chairman, Helen K. Starr, head cataloger, James J. Hill reference library, St. Paul; secretary-treasurer, Grace O. Kelley, supervisor of cataloging and classification, John Crerar library, Chicago.

Cataloging

Miss Polly Fenton, New Jersey College for Women, presided at the meeting for small libraries at which many practical suggestions were set forth in the papers and the discussions which followed. Cataloging simplified thru dropping the "exceptions to the rule," by Miss Susan G. Akers of the Wisconsin library commission, emphasized the value of the unit card—the full author card duplicated for all subjects and added entries. (This paper will appear in full later)

Miss Hazel B. Warren of the Extension division, Indiana state library, spoke on the use of Library of Congress cards for small libraries. No one decision can be made to fit all cases. The cataloging problem is a difficult one for the overburdened librarian of the small library, especially if she has no assistance. Miss Warren expressed her belief that in their summer school, where training is given many of these librarians, too much stress is laid on detailed cataloging and not enough on the meaning and value of it. The technical work should be simplified. More time should be given to instruction in what entries are needed and upon the choice of subject headings. With this knowledge, children's books and fiction can easily be cataloged and if they are not able to make a simple accurate catalog for the adult books, then L. C. cards should be used. Special instruction in the ordering and adaptation of the cards should be given.

Guideposts along the catalog way, was the subject of a paper by Miss Lillian M. Guinn, Bradley Polytechnic Institute, Peoria, Illinois. The route along which a book passes when it is added to a library needs to be worked out scientifically, for always the person in charge needs to have a clear idea of the correlation of all records and processes involved. The speaker showed how this could best be done and mentioned many of the most helpful bibliographical tools. (This paper will be printed.)

In touch with Washington, a paper by Miss Marie T. Brown, Carnegie public library, Conneaut, Ohio, dealt with the selection and cataloging of those public documents of interest to the users of the small library. There is a very definite demand for up-to-date information on subjects found in such publications.

Miss Grace O. Kelly of The John Crerar library, Chicago, presided at the meeting on classification for large libraries. Mr Rudolph Gjelsness, University of Michigan, read a paper: The problems and technique of re-classification for large libraries. Suggestions here set forth were of interest to many libraries which are either considering or are in the midst of reclassification and reorganization. Miss Louise Keller, Independence Bureau library, Philadelphia, reported on the work of the Classifications committee of the Special Libraries association. It has aimed to collect material on library methods of interest to librarians of special libraries, including classification codes and their various modifications. The committee helps the librarian with an individual problem, giving advice on classification and cataloging methods. Its work is preeminently that of a clearing house, not only for special librarians, but for all who need the service it is able to provide.

E. H. McClelland, technology librarian, Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, spoke on The classified catalog as a tool for research. His opinion was based on his experience in using the best type of such a catalog in the technology department at Pittsburgh. He considers this systematic arrangement best. It is most similar to that in which a scientist is accustomed to work with his own materials in his own special field.

Miss Harriet Penfield, John Crerar library, Chicago, read a paper: The equipment and qualifications of a classifier. She stressed the need for special as well as general knowledge, with all the historical and bibliographical knowledge one can build

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up. The classifier should not become merely encyclopedic. He can keep organizing and coöordinating his knowledge and will become the better classifier the more systematized his knowledge becomes. Miss Krieg, University of Iowa library, enlarged further on this subject.

The following brief statement on the new Code for Classifiers by W. S. Merrill, Newberry library, Chicago, will answer many inquiries:

The tentative collection of data for a "Code for Classifiers," issued in a mimeographed edition of only 200 copies for free distribution in May, 1914, is about to give place to a new work based upon the old one, but entirely rearranged and much enlarged. It will embody, moreover, all the decisions and suggestions communicated to the author, as well as many rules supplied by libraries which have compiled their rulings upon doubtful points of classification. Credit is given in the text for all such official rulings and for the many personal suggestions made to the author.

The new work, which will be printed, if present expectations are realized, is arranged in classified form and follows the sequence of divisions in the Decimal classification. It may, however, be used in connection with any system of classification because it is concerned, not with questions about the right sequence or arrangement of subjects, but with principles by which consistency may be maintained by the classifier in placing books in a system of classification. An alphabetical index will afford easy reference to any desired topic or ruling.

Altho the mimeographed edition appeared fourteen years ago and has been in use in some library schools and by classifiers to a considerable extent, no similar work has been attempted, so far as the author is aware. Some of the questions of doubtful classifications were included in the "Survey of libraries" and the replies received from the libraries addressed were summarized. The rulings are

mere statistics, however, no reasons for the respective decisions being given. The Code for Classifiers, therefore, covers an unique field of library technique. It is intended for students of classification and for classifiers as a manual for easy reference in deciding questions of doubt in the classifying of books.

ELIZA LAMB
Secretary

College and reference

This meeting attracted an attendance of about 400 people, the largest number ever gathered together in the section. Most of the papers presented were the reports of the chairmen of various committees who had been working on certain definitely stated problems. This departure from the usual procedure seemed to be well received for the reports showed evidence of much study and caused much discussion.

Edward C. Williams, librarian of Howard University library, Washington, D. C., gave an interesting account of the libraries in schools and colleges for negroes and spoke of the needs of these libraries. The best developed libraries in these institutions are those of Howard University and Hampton Institute. Fisk University was mentioned, also, as a place where the library problem is being given some attention and where great progress might be expected in the near future.

Of the secondary schools the Kansas City high school for colored was commended both for its good collection and excellent service.

Some studies are now under way which may lead to an adequate solution of the problem presented by the existence in Atlanta of five institutions of higher learning for negroes. It is likely because of these studies that some method of coöperation will be found so that the libraries of these colleges will be able to have the use of the combined resources of all, with a great saving in costs and a pronounced betterment of library service.

There is a separate library building at Howard, which gives space to some non-library activities and is now much over-crowded. There is a well equipped library in the Medical school, and the Law school has a collection of over 11,000v. The staff is in the main home-trained. At Hampton the staff is on more of a professional basis. At Fisk, there is now a good beginning with a well selected collection of new books numbering 6000v.

The greatest need now is for trained librarians and next in order is the necessity for more suitable buildings. Altho it is difficult to convince the presidents of the negro universities of the necessity for trained help, the evolution in educational thot is all in the direction of better library service.

Charles B. Shaw, librarian of Swarthmore College, read the report of the special committee appointed to consider the matter of editing a college, university and reference library yearbook. Items recommended as proper subject matter for the yearbook are: 1) general problems of education, especially higher education; 2) an annual summary of the work of the College and Reference section; 3) a compilation of college and university library news; 4) important papers presented at the various meetings, both national and sectional; 5) a record of important gifts; 6) surveys of individual institutions; 7) statements of various institutions' fields of interest and special collections or holdings; 8) brief comment on new departures in college and university library work or equipment.

The committee believed a report on new forms for college statistics and definitions a necessary preliminary to any definite decision on the matter. Several other matters, bibliographies, nature of directions and reprints could not be agreed upon and must be left undecided for the present.

The report of the committee was accepted. It was also voted to accept the offer of the secretary of the A. L. A. to publish such a year book if the

section would edit it. It was believed that the publication of the first year-book would indicate if there was a valuable function performed by it and the continuance of the publication should depend on the success of the first issue.

The matter of the continuation of the Union list of serials was brought up by Keyes D. Metcalf of the New York public library. It was believed that some provision should be made for the publication of a supplement and the furtherance of an exchange of partial sets, which interchange had not come up to the expectations of the original committee. Mr H. W. Wilson remarked that the sale of the Union list had been quite good and that there was already on hand a balance of several thousand dollars for any future undertaking agreed upon by the guarantors of the list. He also proposed that editorial headquarters be given the task of arranging exchanges of sets in case a supplement was to be attempted. It was then voted that "the section deems it desirable that the exchange of odd sets be arranged and that the publication of a supplement to the Union list of serials be issued." It was voted further "that the Executive board be requested to continue instead of discharging the Union List of Serials committee and ask them to suggest at the coming midwinter meeting a plan for a supplement to the Union list."

In discussion, an enlarged membership and more regular payment of dues on the part of those already enrolled were mentioned as desirable, but a motion to create a committee to consider the advisability of dividing up the meetings of the section was voted down.

The committee on definition of "professional assistant" recommended:

That the title "professional assistant" may be used to designate those members of the staff of a college and university library who have: 1) a bachelor's degree, with one year of professional education; or, 2) a bachelor's degree with not less than 3 years' experience in a scholarly library of 50,000 volumes or more; or, 3) an informal educa-

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tion considered by the librarian as the real equivalent of four years of college work plus five years' experience in a scholarly library of 50,000 volumes or more. This provision is to take care of those already in the profession. Later additions to the professional group should meet requirements number 1) or 2). . . . It is assumed in all cases that the work the professional assistant is performing requires a general and professional education. . .

The committee was continued.

"New forms for college and definitions" was presented by J. S. Fowler of the University of Cincinnati library.

That part of the report that provided that no distinction be made between pamphlets and books seemed to arouse some opposition. It was suggested that it would be difficult to find uniform practices in the matter of reporting costs for books, periodicals and binding. In many institutions the sum spent on the increase of the library was reported in one account and in many cases it would be unwise to have definite allotments in case of each of the three categories named. It was voted that the report be referred back to the committee with the request that the proposed form be tried on some 30 libraries in order to determine how it works.

Miss Sears presented a matter of interest as to the determination of a definite method of arrangement of the publications of the League of Nations.

At the suggestion of Mr Currier of Harvard it was voted "that the section request the council of the American Library Association to make urgent representations to the proper authorities of the League of Nations to establish an official and permanent order of arrangement of the documents already issued, to print title-pages and contents sheets to facilitate binding them in composite volumes according to this official arrangement, and in the future at the end of each year to issue title-pages and contents sheets for the year's product."

The second session was presided over by John T. Vance of the Library of Congress, and was the occasion of the appearance of Mexican visitors, Senor Rafael Aguilar y Santillan, per-

petual secretary of the Sociedad cientifica "Antonio Alzate" and Senor Tobias Chavez, director of the University of Mexico libraries. The former, referred to by the chairman as the "dean of Mexican libraries" spoke briefly in Spanish and referred to the mimeographed copy of the English translation of his paper which had been distributed to those present. This paper gave a review of the scientific production as shown in Mexican books and scientific journals and if printed would serve as a guide to those libraries attempting to collect in this valuable and interesting field.

Senor Chavez's paper, likewise distributed in translation, described the libraries of the University of Mexico. The use of the library, the budgets, and the departments represented by separate collections and libraries were fully explained, thus displaying the work of the chief Mexican library serving an educational institution.

In addition to the above, Senorita Esperanza Velazquez Bringas, head of the library department, Ministry of Education of Mexico, delivered her message of Coöperation and good will between the United States and Mexico.

H. O. Severance, librarian, University of Missouri, had prepared a paper on Doctoral dissertations in University libraries, should they be collected, cataloged and preserved, but it was not presented to the meeting because of lack of time. It is hoped that the paper may be published in full later.

The chairman of the Section for the coming year is Martin A. Roberts of the Library of Congress.

JAMES A. McMILLAN
Secretary-treasurer

Lending

Harold F. Brigham, Carnegie library, Nashville, Tenn., the first speaker, discussed the problem of "Keeping the book collection up-to-date." His chief consideration was the "re-habilitation" of books, rather than their selection and purchase. He emphasized the importance of keeping

the book collection clean, fresh-looking and attractive, free from the obsolete, the dirty and the worn, with rebound books in colorful bindings which appeal to the eye of the reader. Two-tone buckram and fabrikoid bindings with lettering in a contrasting color were displayed.

The librarian and good citizenship was the subject of Meredith Nicholson's address, apropos of the present election year and his own vital interest in American political and governmental affairs. He urged librarians to promote the reading of books of American history, biography and civics, saying that "Those of us who take life in our American democracy seriously have been very much concerned by unhappy political trends. These I think fall very probably within the scope of library service in the attempt to try to communicate to the men and women of America the idea that they have got to take some interest in their government or the day will come when they won't have any. . . In this campaign year I make this suggestion: that, in so far as the library is able to deal with its patrons, it try to get them interested in American institutions. We must have the fit govern America."

Dr Geo. F. Bowerman in discussing the Dickman charging apparatus reported that, thus far, results in Washington were on the positive side. The machine has been in use there in the circulation department of the Main library for some time and it is now to be installed in the adult department of a branch library. At present, its use in work with children is not contemplated.

Officers elected for the coming year: Chairman, Mae C. Anders, vice-librarian, Des Moines public library; vice-chairman, Esther Johnston, librarian in charge, Central circulation branch, New York public library; secretary, Mildred W. Sandoe, librarian, Greene County district library, Xenia, Ohio.

Trustees

The trustee's meetings were exceedingly interesting and helpful. Wm. N.

Jannenga's belief in and enthusiasm for library service seemed to wake a return from the audience. There was an attendance of fifty at the first meeting. There were twenty present at the dinner.

A valuable paper on Investment of trust funds was by the chairman of the finance committee of the Louisville public library, Thomas A. Barker. Considerable discussion followed.

The trustees section passed a resolution that recommendations regarding trust funds be sent to the A. L. A. council, from which the following is taken:

1) A certainty of the legal authority on the part of the library board or the city to hold and to administer trust funds. The city should have the same powers in the control of trust funds as a university or college.

2) Safety should be the first consideration in investing funds.

3) Investments should be diversified. Not over five or ten per cent of funds should be invested in any one security.

4) Invest in few securities exempt from Federal Income tax.

5) No investments should be made in the securities of any corporation in which any member of the board is actively interested.

6) Have one investment account and divide the income semi-annually according to the principal of each fund. Avoid baby bonds.

7) So far as possible persuade benefactors of the library not to tie up the funds in such a way as to defeat the purpose of serving the public.

8) The custodian of all library securities and other funds should be adequately covered with surety bonds, the expense of such to be charged against the library.

9) Provide an annual audit of the securities and funds of the board either by the city comptroller or by a certified public accountant.

10) Publish in the library's annual report a list of securities held, income from each, descriptions, etc.

Officers elected: C. A. Cassell, Connersville, Ind., secretary, Mrs E. O. Price, West Lafayette, Ind.

Round-table meetings
Art reference

An audience of about 100 was present, at the Art Reference round-table on Friday morning. To allow opportunity for discussion, both of the work undertaken during the past year and of plans for the future, three papers only were given.

Milton J. Ferguson, state librarian of California, made delightfully picturesque the fascinating work of carrying art to the rural communities of California. His paper was read by Mrs J. Wells Smith, trustee of the Los Angeles public library.

Antoinette Douglas, chief, art and music department, St. Louis public library, described the more recent reference tools¹ of value to the commercial artist, and George Appel, custodian-in-charge of the music department of the Boston public library, traced the development of that library's part in Boston's musical activities, from the remote past of the fifties down to last year's busy season.

The chairman, Gladys Caldwell, read a letter from Julius Mattfeld, librarian of the National Broadcasting library, in which he accepted the chairmanship of a music committee, formed to be of service to the smaller libraries in building up and maintaining adequate music collections.

Antoinette Douglas, chairman of the Costume Index committee, announced plans for a questionnaire to be sent to art librarians concerning the advisability of compiling such an index.

Miss Caldwell was **reappointed** chairman. Elizabeth K. Steele, chief, music and drama department of the Detroit public library, was appointed secretary. Advisory board for the coming year: Earl W. Browning, librarian, Peoria public library, Antoinette Douglas, St. Louis public library, and Ruth Wilcox, Cleveland public library.

¹ This paper will appear later.

Hospital libraries

Three papers and much discussion carried an afternoon meeting of the hospital librarians well with a small and spirited group, and out of the quick-pointed discussion emerged a few well-defined lines to be followed.

This group feels the necessity of being allowed to develop of itself, a division like other divisions in the public library and not absorbed in the larger activities of the branch division or any other. It would stress the necessity of knowing the patient and the book and putting the two together without reliance on that often over-used tool, "the lists." When lists are unavoidable it would emphasize the need of careful annotation of books from the point of view of the probable effect on the patient. Unless these lists are prepared with the greatest care by proper persons they are likely to be worse than useless.

The papers gave a wide range of interest from the story of library service in the Montreal hospitals to the very unique piece of work done in the Sheppard and Enoch Pratt hospital near Baltimore, and the special demonstration of a combination hospital-school library service given to the crippled children in the Gillette state hospital of Minnesota.

Isabel Baylis, convenor of the library committee of the McGill University alumnae, unfortunately was unable to be present. Helen Witherpoon read her paper. Mary Morrissey in her work with mental cases at Sheppard and Enoch Pratt, stressed the understanding, the confidence, the wise good-will that must exist before the library can be of use. Books must be scrutinized before they can be used. There are too many borderline cases to risk using ignorantly such a powerful reagent as a book. This is the first time we have had one speak who has had exclusive experience in a children's hospital. Very often children's cases make up simply a ward in a general hospital and they do not get the attention they deserve. In this state hospital with its long-time orthopedic

cases there is opportunity to do organized class work and Marie Rainey has done a very stimulating piece of library service in and out of her school connection. Her vivid personality and high spirits have made the library a place of joy and refreshment for her wards.

Hospital libraries must have the backing both of hospitals and public libraries in order to succeed, and to those far-visioned, generous administrators who are making the development of this service possible, the gratitude of this group is extended.

PERRIE JONES
Chairman

Order and book selection

The Order and Book Selection round-table, under the chairmanship of Charles W. Smith, of the University of Washington library, Seattle, always one of the most popular sessions, drew an attendance of approximately 750.

The papers were under the general term, "Viewpoints in book selection." Louis J. Bailey, director, Indiana state library, introduced the subject with "The interpretation of the community book needs," in which he showed the need for a better understanding of the "human element" in the problem of reaching the number of boys and girls who do not go beyond the grade school even, of securing interest in good reading of those whose interest level is in the tabloid sheet, and winning those readers and tax payers who pass by the library door and depend upon the corner news stand or the drug store for their reading. "It is a great and unending problem, but we cannot interpret the book needs of our community to its good and our satisfaction until we can each make of our library a broadly cultural and educational house of opportunity to the common people."

Frederic Melcher, editor, *Publishers' Weekly*, in a talk on Book selection: the publisher's problem, stated that with the publisher there is no book *selection* but rather *planning*, for the publisher generally sees a field for a new book,

looks about for the author and decides not only what should be written but who should write it, accepting only the smallest fraction of the number of unsolicited manuscripts submitted, 1170 manuscripts in one year, supplying only 11 books. Fiction and poetry being creative literature, not planned, offer more opportunity for selection by the publisher, tho fiction may also be planned to meet the interest in particular subjects.

"The flood of books" bothers producers (as well as librarians), and because it costs a publisher \$2000 to make a mistake, dollars and cents, unanimous approval of his associates in the business, and his personal experience, make him desirous to recognize *all strata* of society, and to produce books that people will want to read without argument.

He expressed the hope that librarians and those planning, not just selling, the book, will get together more often, and that librarians *write* more *about* books and feel that they have a definite coöperation in a publishing enterprise.

May Wood Wigginton, of the Denver public library, inquired if publishers were rivals when they almost simultaneously published books on the same subject, i. e. four biographies of Washington appearing in the same year.

Herbert Jenkins of Little, Brown and Company, replied that publishers were "friendly rivals" and that it was impossible for one publisher to know the advance plans of another, so that it was coincidence, or due to interest in the subject, or success of the first book that brought forth the rest.

Elva Bascom, Carnegie library school, Pittsburgh, gave the third paper, Education in book selection, in which she suggested that the educational preparation of the future book selector should include "good modernized courses in ethics and applied psychology, under professors who are not so old or so mentally or spiritually isolated as to be out of sympathy with this generation of young people," and the usual specialization in history, literature and social sciences, for one to be adequately prepared to select books, "in these days of increased prices, misleading titles, queer

ideas of authors as to what constitutes a book, and queerer styles of writing."

"Books of today are not written to reflect only the ideals, the beliefs or the philosophies of the serious men and women to whom the world is a study for the creation of beauty of some sort, or a forge for hammering out a soul that is to live eternally. . . . Books now reflect life in all its myriad aspects. They do not conform to the standards which in the past largely governed both authors and publishers. Today many authors seem to look at life as a psychological battleground, and at their characters as creations of a Freudian laboratory," and one is forced to go to the books themselves to make sure of their values for recommendation. "The successful selector of books is never recruited from the ranks of students who 'never find time to read.' Next to a good college course, to become a book-lover and an incessant reader is surely the first step in an education for book selection."

What is book selection? was answered by Miss Charlotte Zepf, of the book selection division of the Chicago public library, who stated that book selection resolved itself into two fields, *demand* and *supply*, with a *qualified* selector supplying the demand, which today is largely created by the skillful advertising of the publisher, but anticipating the needs of the community first, and estimating the value of this expected demand. In the evaluation of the demand, the selector has difficulty, for *timeliness* requires that the book collection be kept up to date and in proportion to the *demand*, not the *subject*, while the element of *selection* appears in the replacing and weeding out when demand and use reveal the weak spots in the collection. Carl B. Roden, Chicago public library, expressed the idea that book selection for a public library was too big a job for any one person, and unfortunately the librarian cannot dispose of his mistakes by a clearance sale as can the bookseller, nor like the physician who "just buries his."

J. Christian Bay, librarian of The John Crerar library, Chicago, gave a paper on Coördination in the purchase of books, particularly well exemplified in

specialties of the outstanding libraries of Chicago. The Public library occupies the general field common to public libraries, The John Crerar specializing in the sciences, medicine and technology, while the Newberry library covers the humanities, recognizing the leadership of the Ryerson library in architecture and art. This coördination is a distinct economy in the purchase of books and permits a greater development of the resources of each than would otherwise be possible. "This specialization undoubtedly will develop further, not only locally but generally. An attempt now is being made to assign certain libraries in the Middle West certain groups of foreign local societies. Much would be gained by proceeding in this way by an assignment of special collections to particularly fitting institutions." Mr Bay, with some other librarians, thinks that in general the libraries are buying too many books, yet recognizing an insistent demand for more books from the users of the public libraries. He suggests the solution lies in the division of subjects among the different libraries of a community. "The Library of Congress, thru Dr Richardson and Dr Johnston, now is making an effort to locate special collections, in order that we all may know where they may be found. Such a survey will assist us greatly in covering fields in need of development, as well as in locating that very special material which scholars are forever seeking. . . . Each locality, or region, would do well in producing such a survey of its collective library resources."

The problem of subscription books was discussed by Adah Whitcomb, Chicago public library, who divided the problem, from the library point of view into the two divisions of purchase for library use, and recommendations for home use, the latter presenting more difficulty of solution than the first. She suggested that librarians and agents hold to the agreement that a subscription set should be judged by exactly the same criteria as any other book, forgetting entirely

that it is a subscription set, with the criteria briefly comprising the following considerations: First: Intrinsic value, including authority, content, presentation of subject matter, and physical make-up; second: its value to the library's collection, involving such questions as demand for such material, its duplication in other form in the library, question of replacement, special shelving, etc., and third: cost in proportion to use. Since it is simpler to apply these standards to single volumes than to a set, she suggests the desirability of the acceptance by the A. L. A. and action on, the recommendations of the 1927 A. L. A. committee on subscription books, particularly the two recommendations, viz: "that the A. L. A. take steps looking toward: first, the evaluation of books and sets published for the purpose of selling thru nation-wide commercialized sales campaigns and on a subscription basis; second, making their findings available to public, school, college and all other librarians, members of the A. L. A. and state library associations."

Another recommendation of the Committee, that they "unanimously urge that the A. L. A. encourage librarians to inform their communities that they are prepared to assist them with authoritative information in avoiding undesirable books and in looking to them as a reliable source of information in regard to subscription sets," was approved because the public rightly should expect expert book information from the librarian, even tho the approval or disapproval of certain sets for purchase for home use, is often a source of embarrassment to the librarian because of the attitude of some publishers. "A wise librarian will never attempt to answer the question, 'which set shall I buy?' She will always say, 'I can only tell you some of the advantages and disadvantages of each; as for the rest you will have to decide for yourself (as the library does) being influenced in your decision by how much money you can afford to spend; then by how many and for

what purpose the set is to be used; by what books you have to supplement it in your home or in a nearby library and by whether you wish it to meet a temporary or a prolonged use.'" For the librarian considering both the problem of "library purchase" and "recommendation for home use" she suggests the help to be found in the recommendation of the Committee that "the *Subscription Books Bulletin* of the Pacific Northwest library association, which has come to occupy a place beside the A. L. A. publications in many libraries, attempting to give advisory book service, be taken over with the consent of the Association, and its findings made available thru official sources." She suggests that the chief concern of the librarian is not so much that the books are sold on subscription basis, as with the contents. "If a book, or set of books, provides valuable material for the library, it is worth while having; if the price and contents are not right, no sales method would make the books worth buying."

Mr Utley, chairman of the A. L. A. editorial committee, stated that the whole question of subscription books was one of education. Since in the majority of small towns the library is used so little, the dictum of the librarian carries little weight, tho respected more than formerly. He said A. L. A. headquarters office was interested in the question of subscription books and was going to try to do something to alleviate the situation. On motion it was voted to urge the A. L. A. to take over the responsibility of publishing a subscription book bulletin similar to that now issued by the Pacific Northwest library association.

Bess McCrea, head of the order department, Cincinnati public library, was elected chairman of the round-table for next year.

Periodicals

The first session, Tuesday afternoon, was held at French Lick, Carolyn F. Ulrich, chairman, with 125 persons present. Dr Bostwick's paper on Science in periodical literature was

omitted as he was taken ill at the last moment.

Ethel Cleland, librarian, Business branch, Public library, Indianapolis, read a paper on What the periodical means to the business man. She said that business and trade papers furnish a constant discussion of economic, business, current affairs and legislative questions of the day, usually made more easily comprehensible from the fact that there is a direct application made to their effect on or connection with some concrete type of business. Then, both entertaining and informative are the human interest stories of the trade papers where the history of an occupation, a firm, an individual or a commodity is traced in detail. Even more valuable are the analyses of trade problems as well as the increase in morale, business ethics, and spirit of coöperation that is supplied by these papers. From the point of view of the library, the business and trade papers form a friendly bond with men not accustomed to using the library. Library files gain invaluable material from clippings gleaned from discarded numbers of unindexed magazines. How much to clip and how much to preserve is a question easier to solve since the Baker library of the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration is collecting and preserving historical business data.

Other points mentioned briefly are: the increase in number and improvement in appearance and content of American business magazines; the inclusion in many magazines of general scope of sections on business affairs; the reviews of business books to be found in all the leading business magazines (and more and more in general magazines); the annual statistical and survey numbers issued by many business papers which constitute valuable reference volumes; the house organ, the trade papers in miniature; and the periodical information which appears in the form of government publications, bank letters, bulletins of trade and other associations and economic

and statistical "services" issued by private firms—all of which are used as guides to analysis and interpretation of business conditions.

Malcolm G. Wyer, librarian, Public library, Denver, discussed Agricultural periodicals for a public library. He said that agricultural periodicals have increased in number from two in 1819 to nearly 600 in 1927. They appeal to the farmer, to the scientific student of agriculture and to the prospective farmer, whether he be high-school boy or city clerk longing for the country, as well as to all sorts of trades and professions which have direct or indirect contact with the farm.

Journals in this field group themselves according to the clientele they are to serve. The scientific periodicals are by and for the experiment stations, colleges, and research workers, and include among others: *Soil Science*, *Journal of Heredity*, *Journal of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists*, etc. Then there are the general farm journals, a few of national importance, many of regional—among the former are: *Country Gentlemen*, *Farm and Fireside*, *Farm Journal*, etc. The latter, of course, vary with the location of the library, and include some of almost national importance, as: *Wallace's Farmer*, *New England Homestead*, *Rural New Yorker*, etc. A library should also include magazines on the specialties prevailing in their community, dairying, fur farming, poultry, sugar industry, etc. The official organs of some agricultural organizations are valuable for reference, as are the *Agricultural Index*, and the *International Review of Agriculture*. Those indexed in the former form a safe guide to the best in their respective fields.

H. O. Severance, librarian, University of Missouri library, gave a talk on How periodicals aid research. He said that periodicals aid research 1) by showing what has already been done, so that the same work need not be duplicated, and 2) by giving results of similar work in the same field or related fields which may contribute to the solution of new problems.

Research is variously defined—typically as, “adding something to the known.” Before the researcher begins his own work, he must be sure his work has not already been done. To ascertain this the entire literature of the subject must be thoroly sifted by means of 1) Library catalog of books, 2) National bibliographies, 3) Book reviews in representative journals, 4) Library of Congress bibliography of special subjects, 5) Indexes to periodical literature, general and specific, 6) Latest numbers of periodicals in special field, 7) Doctoral dissertations in progress in the subject, as well as those already published (current lists appear in the respective journals; the Carnegie Institution publishes annual lists of historical theses, and the National Research Council *Reprint and Circular Series*, no. 80, gives the scientific ones for 1926-27). Every field has its own indexes and periodicals. This is especially true in medicine and the allied sciences. The agricultural experiment stations, state and national, furnish material easily accessible thru the *Agricultural Index*. Then there are the *Annual Engineering Index* and the *Industrial Arts Index*. The National Education Association has established a research service and published results in the research bulletin; ten United States Bureau of Education publications should not be overlooked here, including their *Bibliography of Current Research Studies in Education*, March, 1928.

Dr Reid in his Introduction to organic research writes that “chemical literature is published in periodicals and in books. At the present time practically all the results of investigation appear as articles in the journals, some journals containing nothing else. . . It is possible to get all that has been found out about any subject from the journals, ignoring books completely, but books may be of great assistance as summaries and particularly as guides to journals.”

Hundreds of societies have established their own periodicals for the publication of original work by their members. Research work without immediate publication in a periodical is unthinkable. The

journal also aids research by stimulating production.

W. C. Schluter in his *How to do research work* writes, “The development of a bibliography of the literature relating to the field chosen for research plays an important part in providing a background for a thoro survey. In doing so, it serves a two-fold purpose: 1) Obtaining knowledge of the field, 2) Discovering the extent to which the field has already been investigated with satisfactory or unsatisfactory results.” Of the sources mentioned above, none is more essential than the periodical indexes.

Mr Severance then traced the procedure to be gone thru in looking up “Roosevelt and the Russo-Japanese war,” in order to illustrate precisely this exposition of bibliographic methods.

The meeting closed with a few words from the chairman on the growing importance of periodicals.

The report of officers for 1928-29, opened the second meeting:

Chairman, H. O. Severance, librarian, University of Missouri; secretary-treasurer, Janet Doe, New York Academy of Medicine.

Over 225 persons attended.

Carl L. Cannon, Public library, New York City, read a paper on Purchasing periodicals. He first showed the prohibitive cost to any one library of keeping up with current files of the various necessary periodicals, a prohibition which is doubled if an attempt is made to fill in back files. This has been pretty fully demonstrated before, particularly in Works' College and Reference library problems, but he quoted a few more figures which he had secured, making the conclusion unescapable.

As a relief from an impossible situation he proposed division of the field of periodical purchasing along the following lines:

Group 1 Titles of first importance in use to most reference, college and university libraries. These should be in most libraries, without question.

Group 2 Specialized periodicals in small fields. These should be available in one library in a relatively small area, such as a geographical division.

Group 3 Very specialized, or comparatively minor titles. These would be needed only in one library in each of three or four of the areas indicated, such as Atlantic seaboard, Middle West, Pacific Coast, and South.

These should then be made available thru inter-library loans. At this point he developed the progress made in inter-library loans and commented also upon the use of photostat machines. He then introduced a part of a letter from members of the National Research Council, in which they proposed a division of the field of responsibility among American university and reference libraries for the purpose of securing completeness in the field of biological publications, which is in effect the proposal put forward in the paper. Some mention was made of the method in which foreign libraries divide responsibility and the ease with which they operate inter-library loans.

He then recommended that the country be divided into a number of geographical sections for the purpose of convenience in passing on new titles and because it is difficult for research workers to travel too far to get at sources of information.

The proposal was to consider the problem both in its positive and negative aspects—the positive in that a definite attempt should be made to see that one title was available at some point in the country and negative in that prevention of duplications should not be lost sight of.

There should be no attempt to take away from any library which has specialized in one field, their privilege to buy as heavily as possible in future in that field. Rather, they should be encouraged to continue, but the fact that they were continuing would make it unnecessary for any other library in their vicinity to duplicate, if it fell within Group 2 or 3, and might make it unnecessary, in case it were a very minor publication, to duplicate for any library in the country.

Frederic G. Melcher, editor, *Publishers' Weekly*, New York City, led a discussion on Wherein our present periodicals

for children fail, and gave the general scope of the discussion: whether or not we should have periodicals at all, adult or juvenile; whether or not adult magazines are useful for children; what are the business or editorial aspects of the question, and their interrelationship; what ages are served and what differences are there in the approach of boys and girls. A brief, but fairly comprehensive sketch of the history of the more outstanding of children's magazines, was made, including the following: *Our Young Folks*, 1865-1873; *The Nursery*, 1868-1881; *Riverside Magazine*, 1867-1870; *St. Nicholas*, 1873-; *Wide Awake*, 1875-1893; *Harper's Young People*, 1879-1899. In considering the financial end of the problem, statistics were given for nine current periodicals on the circulation, the proportion of pages of text and advertising matter, and the price. As a general conclusion, those carrying the higher ratio of text pages had necessarily to charge a higher price. The difficulties attendant upon the business success of children's magazines were due to several circumstances. The circulation is hard to maintain: the audience grows away, four years being the average term of a reader. The subscriptions are paid by adults, not by the children who read. There is only a small newsstand sale, scarcely from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{10}$ of a periodical's circulation. Then, the advertising possibilities are limited: children are not primary purchasers; many advertisements are unsuitable and have to be rejected; and the preliminary cost to the advertiser is greater, due to the necessity of special copy. Moreover, it is difficult for children's magazines to attract and hold good writers; the area of sale is restricted, and payment for manuscripts and for illustrations is much less than in other fields. Authors who contribute must do so at a sacrifice.

Marian Cutter, Children's Bookshop, N. Y. C., that magazines could not succeed until they won the confidence of adults. That this was equally true of children's books and that when magazines offered material of a standard which appealed not only to children but to adults as well, the purse strings would

be opened and magazines would be successful just as publishers had found their worthy juvenile books profitable.

Mrs Frances Clark Sayers (A. L. A. Adult Education) said that the most magazines for young children do fail, mainly because an imaginative quality is lacking; their stories and pictures are too labored and fantastic; they miss the simplicity of folklore. Moreover, the misuse of familiar children's literature in advertising is ludicrous.

Camille Davied, editor, the *American Girl*, said it was a shock to her to learn that children's magazines were a failure; her circulation had risen from 7000 to 50,000 in four years. The matter of selling is merely that of advertising and the latter is a question of financial backing. All business ventures require capital. The value of a periodical is in its first few months of existence; its prime object is to orient youth with its changing surroundings; most of the valuable material appears in book form afterwards.

The discussion brought out the fact that several children's magazines are subsidized and that this appears to be necessary inasmuch as financial support is required for every business in its inception.

Alice I. Hazeltine, Columbia school of library service, in a letter to the round-table declared, "A very few very good magazines are quite enough." Elizabeth Knapp, Children's department, Detroit public library, likewise in a letter, that "juvenile" periodicals should be supplemented by the best of the adult field.

Anne Carroll Moore, supervisor, work with children, New York public library, endorsed Mrs Sayers' criticism, and said there is no satisfactory magazine for small children now; she advised Randolph Caldicott's picture books instead. No magazine, for any age, can rise higher than its editorial sources. Literature in children's periodicals must be free, not tainted with propaganda for health, happiness or goodness.

Asked for comments on the *American Boy*, Purd B. Wright, librarian, Public library, Kansas City, Missouri, that that editors should remember their own boy-

hood better, and added that advertisers ignore the influence of the child in the home.

Julia F. Carter, children's department, Public library, Cincinnati, said all children's magazines need more variety.

Mabel Williams, supervisor, work with schools, New York public library, advocated the introduction into children's libraries of the best of the adult magazines.

Miss Moore said that the *American Boy* was more varied than might be expected, and did make a real effort to keep in touch with the modern boy. Periodicals are important in preserving valuable manuscripts for book publication.

In various surveys the comparative popularity of girls' and boys' magazines showed the boys preferring *Boy's Life* and the *American Boy*, while the girls ran to *True Stories* and *Love Stories*.

Mr Melcher summed up by saying that children's magazines need that and better contact between libraries and editors.

Public documents¹

James B. Childs, chief of the Documents division, Library of Congress, in his paper entitled, Trends in state publications, made the following points:

Some recent trends in state publications may be attributed either to state advertising and publicity or to the movement for efficiency and economy.

That such publicity on the part of the state is a paying proposition, Governor Brewster of Maine declared in his 1927 inaugural address. During the previous two years over 400,000 pamphlets had been published.

By far the greater part of the output of state publicity material appears in the form of periodicals.

Conservation of natural resources thru education is responsible for another group of publicity periodicals.

Of the publicity based on the desire to insure good government by informing the taxpayer thru simplified reports, we have an especially noteworthy example in the state of Indi-

¹The reports were full and interesting. The editor of LIBRARIES regrets it is not possible to present them in full herein.

ana. Upon the recommendation of Governor James P. Goodrich, the General Assembly of 1917 enacted "that there shall be prepared annually under the direction of the governor, by the bureau of legislative and administrative information, a comprehensive state report which shall be known as the *Indiana Year Book*, and which shall include a summary of the reports of each of the state offices, boards, commissions, departments, bureaus and institutions together with facts, data and statistics about the state of Indiana, its people, resources, government, elections, crops, economic and social conditions and such other matter as may be approved by the governor for publication therein."

Discussing State publications from the point of view of the business librarian, Rollin A. Sawyer, chief of economics, New York public library, maintained:

There is generally nothing striking or memorable about the titles even of business books, to say nothing of government documents, to arrest the attention of possible readers and develop a point of view.

Not once a year does one welcome a title like *The job, the man, and the boss*, or *What's on the worker's mind*, or *Main Street and Wall Street*.

Naming a few types of state publications which are intended primarily for commercial use, or by their nature are inevitably to be found in a commercial library, first of all there are directories. Industrial directories have been published by several states, among them New York, Pennsylvania, Louisiana and New Jersey, and there are few state documents which are in greater demand.

Lists of new incorporations and annual reports by secretaries of state, corporation commissioners, public service commissions, bank and insurance departments, also serve as directories.

Librarians interested in accounting will want to have copies of the uniform classifications of accounts for public utility companies which are

printed by the public service commissions of several states.

For information about particular commodities, especially agricultural products, state documents are often the best source of information.

Experiment station bulletins are notable because they are often studies of trade areas.

The economic publications of experiment stations, as might be expected, deal for the most part with agricultural products or with such subjects as taxation or farm lands.

A perfect example of a state document intended primarily for the use of the business man is a monograph on Chicago as a money market just issued by the Illinois University Bureau of Business Research.

Maud Durlin Sullivan, librarian, Public library, El Paso, Texas, told How the public librarian uses state documents. She said in part:

The average citizen knows that the state sends out bulletins on many subjects. He is more likely to think of the public library when wishing specific information on local state matters. To have available such state publications as are needed is one of the requirements for efficient reference service.

Every librarian builds her work around the local industries, characteristic development of geographic distribution and agricultural problems. The Southwest has an exceedingly interesting background historically, and its problems of making a livable country out of a desert make it necessary to gather specific material to answer the many daily inquiries.

Altho many of the documents mentioned here apply particularly to the Southwest, librarians in any part of the United States can find among their state publications abundant reference material.

Some questions on geology and mining answered by State documents show the character of their usefulness:

Oil and gas in New Mexico
Oil geology of Pecos county
Geology of district about Mineral Hill, Arizona

Mining industries of New Mexico
Silver and lead in Arizona
Geology of Presidio county
Coal fields of New Mexico

State documents are essential to the reference department of any public library. Assistants trained to use them intelligently find them a veritable mine of interesting and valuable information. Small libraries can build a good reference collection on the foundation of United States and state documents.

Miss Guerrier brought interesting news in a brief report on the progress of "Government Information Service."

"In September, 1919, a bill to provide for a Library Information Service in the Federal Government was introduced into the House and Senate. It was favorably reported three times, and there have been three sizable printed hearings with full information on the subject.

To describe this adventure in legislation, would take more time than you would be willing to give to the story.¹ The telegram, which I shall have the pleasure of reading to you, gives briefly an important result achieved along the line of making our Government better known to the people:

Miss Edith Guerrier,
West Baden, Ind.

Public Printer has approved recommendation for publication of weekly list to begin July 1 or as soon thereafter as it is possible to get it started.

A. P. TISDEL
Supt. of Documents

Washington, D. C.

With the publication of the weekly list it will be the privilege and the duty of librarians all over the country to note its contents, to buy the publications listed, and to place them at the disposal of the reading public."

Resolutions thanking Senator Moses, chairman of the Joint committee on printing, Mr George H. Carter, government printer, and Mr Alton P. Tisdell, superintendent of documents, for their assistance were wired to Washington.

On motion of Miss Ahern, a rising vote of thanks was given Miss Guer-

rier for her faithful and long continued activity in behalf of this project.

In her paper, Documents of the states in the schools (treated with special reference to the documents of Illinois) Josephine Lesem, Senn high school, Chicago, said in substance:

Can documents be used in the schools? Yes and no. Statistical and technical documents have a limited place as teacher references, but in general can be used by pupils only under the careful direction of teacher or librarian. Documents of the more popular types may be used as supplementary reading, as bases for supervised study, special reports, or reference for individual projects.

Are documents being used? The answer to this question has been based upon a partial survey of the situation in Illinois. State documents are used less than those of city, county, and national governments. Teachers of civics, home economics, science, and history are the chief users of documents both for class reference and for their own personal information. Exclusive of Chicago, Illinois, cities of 30,000 or more inhabitants report meager files of state documents in their public and high-school libraries. Many librarians would keep files of documents, were the demand greater, or if there were space for them. It is also difficult to select and classify them. Rural school libraries and libraries with limited funds would find their facilities much enhanced at little or no cost if they would develop a method of selecting wisely from state and other government publications.

A wider use of state documents will not be possible until better methods of coöperation have been worked out between teachers, librarians, and state officials.

Publicity

On Tuesday afternoon, a large company showed great interest in the subject of publicity by gathering in the convention hall under the direction of Carl L. Cannon, Public library, New York City.

¹ See *Public Libraries* for stories.

The first discussion was by Lee White, librarian and a former editor on the *News* of Detroit, Michigan. This was one of the most practical talks of the whole convention. He gave admirable advice about writing for newspapers. Many in the audience were heard to say that this was one of the things that they found the hardest to do satisfactorily—to prepare notices for newspapers. The Publicity committee had submitted to him actual news stories which had been prepared for publication. He emphasized the good points in the copy and indicated why others made the copy unacceptable to an editor. Some copy which he read to the audience reflected no great credit on their authors, and the editors in the audience were very glad to hear comments and see the smiles which Mr White's talk brought out. Some of the things of which he spoke are hardly excusable beyond the writing craft of high-school students, and yet many in the audience knew that they were everyday occurrences.

Mr White was most generous in his presentation and it was regretted by all his hearers that his time at West Baden was too limited to afford the personal conference which many wished to have with him. Mr Bowerman of the Washington public library offered the suggestion that the A. L. A. be asked to print Mr White's address for a handbook. No action was taken on the matter.

Radio broadcasting

The possible work of the committee was divided into three divisions: 1) Direct aid to libraries who are broadcasting or expect to broadcast; 2) Encouragement to libraries to broadcast; 3) More publicity for books and libraries in programs by non-librarians. It was the general opinion that the first of these was by far the most important and that any urging of libraries to broadcast might be injurious rather than helpful unless the libraries are fitted for such work.

It was agreed that a mention of certain books on the programs of the va-

rious network circuits would be of advantage to listeners as well as to libraries. For example, in connection with the stories told of operas it might be well to state where the synopsis of the stories could be found. It was the feeling of the committee that a short article summing up the necessary points in radio broadcasting should be published. Miss Weston of Fort Wayne reported that the children's stories told by the Fort Wayne public library had been very successful; that they preferred to tell rather than read the stories. A certain series has been given by them, with a Robin Hood story every Saturday night.

It was decided to ask A. L. A. Headquarters to appoint someone as a representative of headquarters to work with the Radio Broadcasting committee. It was decided also to send to the A. L. A. *Bulletin* suggestions on what librarians could do to encourage greater use of books announced over the radio, such as those broadcast by the National League of Women Voters.

CHARLES H. BROWN

Chairman

Small libraries

At the Small Libraries round-table on May 30, the general theme was *building*, discussed from several view points by four speakers out of their own successful experiences.

In a brief introduction, the chairman, Georgie G. McAfee, Lima, Ohio, called attention to the fact that today the same quality, if not the same quantity of service is expected of all public libraries whether these be in villages or in cities, and that if the smaller library is to live, it must exercise its building function in ways undreamed of a generation ago.

In Mexico

Senor Joaquín Díaz Mercado, librarian of the Ministry of Education library, Mexico, was the first speaker. His excellent paper on the "Organization of small libraries in Mexico" was read in Spanish, but mimeographed translations in the hands of the audience made it possible for everyone to follow the discussion with ease. Senor

Díaz Mercado confined himself to a discussion of those libraries supported by the Federal Government of the Republic, among which is classified the following: the National library; public libraries of the first rank with more than 8,000 volumes, those of the second with more than 4,000 and less than 8,000 volumes; those of the third, with less than 1,000 volumes; libraries for children; rural libraries, and libraries in institutions. Of these different classes the speaker felt that the ones exerting the greatest influence today are the rural and the children's libraries.

A serious problem in these libraries is that of building capacity, since the Mexican reading public prefers to do a great deal of its work within the library reading rooms rather than to take material to the sometimes uncertain comfort of their homes.

The personnel standards are high. At the head of each of these libraries must be a director who has an A. B. degree, is acquainted with two living languages,¹ has had five years' experience, professional training, has health, enthusiasm, irreproachable character, leadership and initiative! The average salary is eight pesos or four dollars a day.

It is of interest to note that these libraries are not given individual appropriations, but that the Department of libraries distributes funds from the Federal budget, these amounts ranging from \$250,000 (in U. S. money) in 1923, down to \$20,000 in 1927.

Free access to shelves is the rule only for encyclopedias and dictionaries. For the use of other material a rather complicated procedure is used. Experience has dictated the policy of providing separate reading rooms for men and women. As there is a law making librarians responsible for all books lost, a deposit of five pesos is required of each borrower for whom, in addition to registration and reader card, an additional record is kept showing date of delivery of each vol-

ume, its classification and accession number, and the date of its return!

The present library movement has been in existence in Mexico only five years, and already there is promise that the Mexican people will one day realize what the free library means to the progress of a nation, and will endorse its expansion and development.

Ethel F. McCollough, librarian of Evansville public library, spoke next on Intangibles of library building. Miss McCollough made the point that in any discussion of the "intangibles," the board of trustees, the library staff were challenged by their community in ways which can not be measured by statistics, which cost much in time and effort, but which are only discernible in the final results.

I once knew a librarian who always spoke of his library board as "that necessary evil". For years he endeavored to operate the library without the coöperation of his board, then, *in spite of the board*. The result was not a marked success. An intangible something was lacking and in time that librarian passed on, but the library board remained.

This coöperation between library board and librarian really hangs upon a hair trigger. In 99 cases out of 100 it works beautifully: in the hundredth case it misses fire. Officiousness and bossiness and an air of I-know-it-allness, either on the part of a trustee or librarian will wreck any library ship of state.

Since the librarian is the one person who is paid to know something about all phases of library work, the responsibility for the development of the spirit of coöperation and broadening the vision of the board of trustees rests ultimately with her. It is never so written down in the library law, but it is generally accepted as one of the basic "intangibles".

Miss McCollough said that another intangible which is worthy of the Nobel peace prize is the building of the personnel of the library board, the responsibility for drawing into the group those who are tolerant, broad-minded, generous in their judgment, who are willing to back a forward-looking program even in the face of opposition.

The staff member with friendliness, an alert, acquisitive mind, a genuine interest in all sorts and conditions of

¹Would that one of these was English.

men, with enthusiasm which will stand the strain of working behind the scenes as well as in the limelight, and in torrid as well as in temperate weather, is contributing to the intangibles of library building.

Each new assistant is a new possibility. Each time I say to myself, "Perhaps she will be the one! Perhaps she will be a library genius, perhaps she will carry the torch farther than any one of us has been able to do".

It is faith that makes a library possible in a community. Men and women will not support, year after year, any institution in which they have no faith.

The busy man believes that it is a good thing to have a public library to fall back upon when he gets into a jam with a business problem and that it pays to keep it up. The mother, the professional man, the flapper, the small boy and girl, all believe that relief, forgetfulness, inspiration and happiness may be found within the library portals.

Is it not for these very "intangibles" that library trustees, the staff and community cooperate in library building? Not things or systems or methods are most important, but the spirit animating the human element.

He whom a dream hath possessed treads the implacable marches

From the dust of the day's long road he leaps to a laughing star,

And the ruin of worlds that fall he views from eternal arches,

And rides God's battlefield in a flashing and golden car.

Frances S. Hays, extension secretary of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, Washington, D. C., gave a forcible talk on Coöperation between the library and the parent-teacher association.

She made a strong plea for mutual understanding between the two organizations before attempting coöperative activities. The Parent-Teacher book shelf in the public library was suggested as a means of bringing these two groups together thru a study of the excellent material now published on all phases of child life: the pre-school child who has lately come into his own; the adolescent who demands attention while he adjusts himself to the grown-up world; the gifted child who must be aided in bringing out all his talents; the unadjusted child who cannot be pigeon-holed by old meth-

ods of teaching. These have all been written about.

The selection of reading matter for the parents' library presents many difficulties. The help of librarians is needed in selecting the best and eliminating that which is mediocre or out of date.

Another recommendation made by the speaker was for library visiting. Parents can visit the library in groups to become acquainted with the material offered for every kind of adult interest, and to know, thru personal contact, the children's room and the children's librarian.

Is it not important that librarians learn to know the parents of the children they serve? Miss Hays closed with the challenge to parents and teachers and librarians that they work together toward educational opportunity for every child.

The building of library consciousness thru extension centers was discussed by Mrs Maude Durlin Sullivan, librarian of El Paso, Texas, in an original paper entitled *Outside the walls*. Mrs Sullivan gave to her discussion something of the color and of the spirit of adventure which accompanies the approach to any frontier.

The first definite extension work was service to mining men in the isolated places in the Southwest, and later to Spanish speaking people struggling in remote and arid districts with problems of agriculture.

In South El Paso where the population is almost entirely Mexican, stations are operated in rented rooms, or at the back of drug stores in tenement districts. Here a station open once a week will have a turnover of 4,000 books a month.

As each speaker made his or her contribution, the audience was brought back to the essentials of library building, and was made to realize that a growing and efficient service in any library must be based on careful analysis, on a fearless imagination, and on the power generated from library workers from convictions rather than from mere opinions.

League of Library Commissions

Libraries and rural welfare, was the subject of a talk by Mrs Charles Sewell, director of Home and Community work for the American Farm Bureau federation, at the first session of the League of Library commissions, May 28. Speaking from the standpoint of her organization, Mrs Sewell said that its purpose was to raise the standard of living on the farm so that farmers might have "life more abundantly."

"The civilization of no nation can ever hope to rise higher than the standard of its home." Perhaps there is no other single force that can render as great a contribution to this high standard as that which is possible by means of the county library. The economic condition of agriculture is readily reflected in standards of home and community life, and to the present-day student of rural economics, there is a significant fact in the figures showing that in California where coöperative marketing has reached a high state of efficiency, 46 out of 58 counties maintain county libraries. When one reflects, the average shows 83 per cent of rural communities are without library service, the natural deduction is that agricultural prosperity, culture and education go hand in hand.

She said that the Farm Bureau can help thru its legislative committee in getting appropriations for state work, and can offer in its local meetings an opportunity to present the library program.

She urged that rural libraries take a larger part in directing the reading of children and older people, thru reading hours at Mothers vacation camps and book reviews in rural papers. She suggested that librarians encourage an interest in rural dramatics thru material for plays and entertainments, that libraries provide a rest room and center for community meetings, and that the county or township library be made into a folk-school. The solution of agricultural problems needs men and women of mature minds and a combination of all arts and sciences.

The discussion which followed centered around the obstacles in the way of establishing county libraries and the fu-

tility of starting such libraries on such pitifully small appropriations. The need of wider knowledge of rural problems and better understanding of county government and finance was emphasized. In summing up the discussion, Mr Lester called attention to a reading list on agricultural economics which is to appear in the *Wisconsin Library Bulletin*, suggesting that librarians should read with a purpose.

At the second session of the League, on Wednesday evening, May 30, Dr C. J. Galpin, of the U. S. Division of farm population and rural life, spoke on the Inevitable revision of rural life.

He expressed his desire to raise the temperature of hope in rural life. The farmer has become part and parcel of modern life, and his wants are increasing. Farm population has decreased one-tenth in the last 8 years. With the scientific study of agriculture and the enlargement of his immediate world, the period of pastoral simplicity has disappeared. Librarians as humanists should carry the scientific attitude of mind over to human problems.

The revision of rural life is reënforcing the natural advantages which a child has in being born in the country thru the community house, united churches, rural hospital and county library.

Mr Galpin called attention to *Farmers bulletin no. 1559 on Rural Libraries* just issued.

Hoyland L. Wilson, librarian of Coahoma county, Clarksdale, Miss., gave a most interesting talk on the work in her county. A book-wagon, a seven year old Ford, was procured with the slogan "The library will cover Coahoma county." When the door burst open one day, the chauffeur reported that it had indeed covered one end of the county. There are 29 stations for whites and 3 for colored people in schools, garages, homes, wherever a sufficient number of people can be reached. Teachers from the Rosenwald Agricultural schools come in for books. A special law in Mississippi allows \$7500 appropriation from the county. Coahoma county receives \$5000.

Mr Lester gave a report of the British Columbia survey. He said its purpose

was to find out the facts and determine what might be done in a unique situation. He gave 1) an outline of geographical and social conditions, 2) the organization of the survey and 3) a broad statement of results.

1) He showed a map of British Columbia which has an area of 375,000 square miles, one-tenth of the area of Canada, and a population of 524,000. Three-fifths of the population live in the Southwestern corner, with 85,000 in Victoria and approximately 300,000 in Vancouver and the valley of the Fraser river.

It is a territory of rich possibilities (\$700,000,000), and the financial situation is favorable in many respects. There is no other concentration of population. In the Okanogan Valley, there are 25,000 to 30,000 people. Then there is the tremendous coast line, with Prince Rupert, a town of 5000, and over 1100 registered trading camps, completely blocked by the Cascades—the only communication by water.

2) The province of British Columbia was one of the first to undertake traveling library work in 1898. The Library commission was organized in 1919, with a new personnel in 1926. Under the leadership of Dr Norman Black, a man of energy, vision and determination to find out how before beginning, a survey was determined upon a year ago.

The organization consisted of a research board, comprising three librarians from the island, three from the mainland and three members of the commission, plus the chairman of the library committee of the Teachers federation. This Central Research board undertook the task of gathering facts. The chairman of the commission, librarian of the university, and librarian of the Vancouver public library constituted the executive committee. In addition there was a council of 40 to 50 members of the legislature, representing influential groups in the province. A mailing-list was developed including every post-office in the province (2000). On the one hand there were those with library experience and on the other, extension of information into every part of the population. The

questionnaire method was used; and the field looked into not only as to existing library service, including every kind of library, but as to what might be done to give service. Some kind of information was brought back from every part of the province and from 1000 schools. The information was turned over to the commission and organized from the point of view of fact statement. A mimeographed statement was prepared and sent every member of the committee and council.

Bulletins were issued in the form of popular text statements containing a summary of facts. The influence brought about thru this widespread request for something and getting back of something was a big factor. Finally, the information was passed over to the council, whose task it was to come to conclusions about facts collected.

3) As to results, the work is not yet done. The main job of the survey was to try to work out a plan. The primary necessity is a strong central organization. The situation will require continuation of the traveling library work. The sea-coast must be reached by boat service. The traveling library service may involve development of an interior center, such as Kamloops.

The governmental organization, which is by cities, school districts and district municipalities (corresponding to our towns) does not permit of anything like a county organization.

Officers elected are: Mr Lester continues as president for another year; first vice-president, Mrs Lillian Griggs, North Carolina library commission; second vice-president, Leora J. Lewis, South Dakota library commission; secretary-treasurer, Jane Morey, Missouri library commission; Executive Board member, Frank L. Tolman, New York state library.

CLARA F. BALDWIN
Secretary-treasurer

Old Photographer—Now, watch the pretty birdie, little girl.

Modern Child—Oh, don't be a nut. Expose your plate and get this over with.

Library Meetings

Boston—At the annual meeting of the Special Libraries association of Boston, June 9, there were talks on the A. L. A. meeting at West Baden.

The following officers were elected: President, Howard L. Stebbins, Social Law library; vice-president, Abbie G. Glover, Insurance Library association; secretary, Gladys L. Saville, *Christian Science Monitor*; assistant-secretary, Dorothy St. J. Manks, Massachusetts Horticultural society; treasurer, James F. Ballard, Boston Medical library. Member of the executive board, Willard E. Keyes, *Boston Herald* library.

California—The spring meeting of the Pasadena library club was held in the Pasadena public library on May 18. Following a buffet supper, Roy Vernon Sowers, of the Henry E. Huntington library and art gallery, entertained the company with a lecture on The art of the poster, illustrated with examples from Mr Sowers' own collection which were on view on the walls.

A number of short talks were given by members of the club on recent books of interest. Helen Haines, in her brilliant manner, led this part of the meeting.

At the business session, Mrs Saxon Brown and Mrs Patricia O. Dutcher were elected president and secretary-treasurer respectively.

MRS PATRICIA O. DUTCHER
Secretary-treasurer

New York—At the meeting of the New York Regional Catalog group, May 4, a committee was appointed to consider a compilation of a list of subject headings to be used by special libraries.

Ellen A. Hedrick of Washington spoke on Coöperative cataloging. She stressed the value of the work done by the Library of Congress and gave an interesting account of the union catalog of the Virginia state library. She suggested that the extension of coöperative work among libraries has not reached its greatest limit. She dis-

cussed coöperative book selection, purchasing and cataloging as being of value, especially to the smaller library.

It was stated in the discussion that Russia is doing much work in coöperation in cataloging and classification.

Isadore G. Mudge of Columbia University gave an inspiring talk on the catalog of the *Bibliothèque Nationale*.

The following officers were elected; President, Theresa Hitchler, Brooklyn public library; vice-president, Isabella K. Rhodes, School of library service, Columbia; secretary-treasurer, Constance Beal, Russell Sage Foundation library.

Pennsylvania—The last meeting of the Pennsylvania library club for the season, was held June 11, at 8:30 p.m. in the Free library of Philadelphia. A. Edward Newton, president of the club was in the chair.

The annual election of officers resulted as follows:

President, A. Edward Newton; first vice-president, Thomas Lynch Montgomery; second vice-president, Anne Wallace Howland; secretary, Martha Coplin Leister; treasurer, Josephine B. Carson.

The speaker of the evening was John C. Eckel, whom Mr Newton introduced as "the best known Dickens bibliographer in Great Britain or in the United States."

"Not one of the great novelists," said Mr Eckel, "has surpassed Dickens." *Pickwick* was his first novel, and it has no competitor in the realm of books, altho its author was only 24 when he wrote it. The perfection of *Pickwick* is one of its most striking features; and since it was first published, in 1836, no other prose book has equalled it in popularity, Mr Eckel told his audience. Aside from the great literary value of *Pickwick*, its first editions are the most expensive of all great books. It was originally issued in parts, about 32 pages to a part, in very fragile form, which is the reason that so few of the early editions have survived. There are in existence only 14 or 15 sets of these parts

which meet all requirements. Of those early editions, Mr Newton has the finest in the United States. In 1896 a first edition of *Pickwick* sold in London for \$500; and in 1927 a copy sold in New York City for \$16,300. It has increased in value at the rate of \$500 a year for 32 years. The original parts sold for 25 cents each when first published in 1836.

In closing, Mr Eckel said that the book collectors are the greatest factors in the preservation of great literary masterpieces. "Mr Newton," said Mr Eckel, "is the most ardent and the most courageous book collector in America."

At the close of Mr Eckel's address Mr Newton gave a brief talk on the books that had been written on Dickens. "A great life of Dickens," Mr Newton said, "has never been written; and only two works of criticism of Dickens' writings deserve commendation. One is by Chesterton, the other by Gissing." Mr Newton said he had recently been asked by the *Yale Review* to review the following books on Dickens:

- 1) Dexter, Walter. *Some rogues and vagabonds of Chas. Dickens.*
- 2) Payne, Edward F. *Dickens' days in Boston.*
- 3) Holdsworth, William S. *Chas. Dickens as a legal historian.*

The first could be dismissed with a few words. It might be useful as a reference book if it had an index.

The second is interesting in that it recounts the social life of Dickens, naming his hosts and hostesses, during his visit to Boston. It is of particular interest to the descendants of the families who entertained Mr Dickens.

The third book is the most delightful and the best of the three. The author is professor of law at Oxford University, a lawyer of great distinction.

In closing Mr Newton said "Dickens' sentiment is awful—his humor glorious."

After the meeting, the 107 members and their friends were the guests of Mr Newton at a reception.

Interesting Things in Print

A new volume in *The Reference Shelf series*, "Flood control," contains articles for and against the subject, with affirmative and negative briefs, a selected bibliography and an introduction to the subject. The introduction by Lamar T. Beman, the author, is full of interesting material exploding some old theories regarding the rise and fall of waters. It is bound similarly to others in the series and the price is 90 cents.

A "supplement," 1926-1927, to the Standard catalog for high school libraries has just been issued. It records 485 books and 425 pamphlets which have been cataloged to correspond to the main Catalog for school libraries in two parts. The publishers, the H. W. Wilson Company, announce that this supplement will be included in all orders received for the complete Catalog for high school libraries or for Part 2 only. To others there will be a charge.

"Bibliographies pertaining to Latin America in the Columbus Memorial library of the Pan American Union" has been issued by Charles E. Babcock, librarian. The compilation includes such bibliographies as may be found in the library of the Pan American Union, and within that classification it is a complete catalog. The arrangement is by countries which enables the searcher to know what bibliographical work has been done in each country as far as is shown by the contents of the Columbus Memorial library.

The Franklin Square Agency, of New York City, issues a monthly sheet, *Periodica*, which registers the important events in the periodical world. Under the headings of Births, Deaths, and Miscellaneous, information is given monthly for the Franklin Square clients. In the June number, 16 new publications are noted, six periodicals have discontinued, and notes concerning reorganization or consolidation, change of name, etc., are given for 11 others. A remarkable item under Births is *Fight Stories*—"Monthly

fiction publication containing material for the prize ring."

The Henley Publishing Company has issued a volume *Everybody's aviation guide* by Major V. W. Pagé, U. S. R., which deals with the differences in the construction of the various types of airplanes, pointed out with impartial and expert analysis of the various advantages and disadvantages. The book includes 600 questions and answers which are divided into 10 lessons that take the reader from the elementary conceptions of primitive air craft to more advanced consideration of mechanical flight.

Major Pagé, the author, is an internationally recognized authority on automotive subjects.

A volume which undoubtedly will be of unusual interest is *The origins of the League Covenant*—documentary history of its drafting, by Florence Wilson, with an introduction by Professor P. J. Noel Baker. The writer of this book was engaged by the American Peace commission to prepare an analysis of the League of Nations for the commission, and this analysis forms the body of her new book. It gives various views held by the statesmen who drew up the covenant and the changes thru which its various clauses passed before they were finally agreed upon. When the commission disbanded, Miss Wilson was appointed librarian of the League secretariat at Geneva, 1919-1927.

Miss Wilson's colleagues in the Overseas Library Service will welcome with interest this notable work by one of their number.

A "Register of the New York State library school, 1887-1926" has been issued by the New York State Library School association. An historical sketch covering the outstanding facts in connection with the school from the time it was started at Columbia College in 1887 to its return in 1926 is given. A list of the faculty that have been connected with the school is also given, followed by the register of students, January 1887-June 1926.

The entries in the register are made chronologically with an alphabetical index of students at the end of the volume. Alice L. Jewett, 1914, at present librarian of the Public library, Larchmont, N. Y., edited the register. Library school bulletins were issued by the New York state thru 1921 and the state being unwilling to finance a new edition of the register complete in one volume, the matter was undertaken by the Library School association, and the present volume contains the result of the effort of the editor to include the complete list of students. Out of 700, approximately 100 could not be traced or did not respond to the communications. Where it was possible, a record of the professional service of these, was taken from the former editions of the library school bulletin.

The disposal of the publication will be in charge of Wharton Miller, treasurer, N. Y. S. L. S. A., Syracuse, N. Y.

Reviving an Older Book

Two years ago the author of "The Bridge of San Luis Rey" produced a book called "The Cabala" (the name is pronounced with the accent on the first syllable). The publishers of this book have recently sent out to the book trade a significant letter from which the following extracts are taken:

"We are spending \$5000 next month in an experiment in bookselling.

The Cabala, by Thornton Wilder, has sold 12,000 copies. Many competent critics consider it a better book than "The Bridge of San Luis Rey." If published today it would surely sell over 100,000 copies.

We are told that the book trade is geared to push only new books and cannot be induced to promote the sale of a book two years old. We think that this theory is unfounded and are risking our money to prove our belief."

The library is always gratified at a revival of interest in worthwhile older books which have lost their place in the sun due to the deadly competition with "best sellers" and works hot off the press.

Readers will find in hordes of these older books something great they have missed, something that offers real entertainment, or usefulness, or inspiration, something that meets a need or demand of the present hour. "The Cabala" is such a book.—*Library Bulletin*, Carnegie library, Nashville, Tenn.

Library Schools

Carnegie library at Atlanta

The Graduates association met June 1, when the class of 1928 became members of the association. Officers elected: President, Amy Quillian; vice-president, Olivia Kent; secretary-treasurer, Martha Shover.

The second semester carried out the schedule of supervised practical work in the various libraries of Atlanta.

Supplementing the book selection course were the lectures from the different members of Emory University faculty who presented the bibliography of their particular field. Gertrude Stiles had five class appointments in Book mending and binding. Charlotte Fairchild, librarian of Rice branch, Cleveland, Ohio, and special lecturer of the Western Reserve University library school, gave a most delightful talk on The branch library and the community.

On June 5 the class took its place in the Emory University academic procession, the first class of the Library school to receive the degree of bachelor of arts in library science.

Appointments

Sarah O. Additon, assistant Alabama State College for Women library, Montevallo.

Daisy Anderson, librarian at Judson College, Marion, Alabama.

Kathryn Burchette, in the cataloging department of Duke University library.

Loulie Cason Forester, the Public library, Macon.

Margaret Knox Gilbert, circulation department of the Cossitt public library, Memphis, Tennessee.

Marianna Long, the cataloging department, Duke University library.

Mary Lydia Marsh, librarian, Limestone College, Gaffney, South Carolina.

Grace Rodman, reference librarian, Public library, Greenville, South Carolina.

Margaret Lee Taylor, assistant, children's department, Public library, Tampa, Florida.

Annie Belle Weaver has received the appointment of librarian of the Junior college, Valdosta.

WINIFRED LEMON DAVIS

Principal

Drexel Institute

Graduation occurred June 18, with 22 students recommended for the degree, B.S. in L.S. Three students re-

ceived certificates. First honor was awarded to Anna Haddow for the highest marks of the year. Hazel Fitz received honorable mention, Drexel Library School Alumni Association prize and the Kroeger Memorial scholarship.

Drexel Institute has been placed upon the list of accredited colleges of the Middle Atlantic states and Maryland.

The State council of education of Pennsylvania has granted to Drexel Institute the right to confer the degree of bachelor of science in library science and the master's degree in library science. At present, Drexel offers only the one year basic course leading to the bachelor's degree.

The Summer school for school librarians offers a six weeks course, beginning July 2, under Helen Harris, principal, and Ruth Fitzgerald and Vera Dixon, instructors.

Three members of the faculty, Mrs Anne W. Howland, Helen Harris and Mildred Pope, attended the annual meeting of the A. L. A.

The following is a list of appointments received by students since the last report printed in LIBRARIES:

Mrs Florence K. Engberg, assistant, Extension division, Public library, Washington, D. C.

Hazel Fitz, in charge of Summer School library, Bryn Mawr College.

Marian Heister, Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster.

Ruth C. V. Køster, catalog department, Reading public library.

Dorothy Locke and Una A. Marvin, library assistants, Queens Borough public library, New York City.

Anna L. Jones, assistant, children's department, Wilmington Institute free library, Wilmington, Del.

The following is a list of graduates for the year 1927-28:

For degree of B.S. in L.S.—Ruth Arthur, Margaret Bruce, Marion Chaffee, Mary Closson, Florence Engberg, Hazel Fitz, Genevieve Geiger, Marion Griffin, Anna Haddow, Marian Heister, Anna Jones, Margaret Kerr, Dorothy Locke, Una Marvin, Virginia Murphy, Ann Powell, Louise Rhoads, Edith Robson, Dorothy Varian, Laura West, Edith Wright, Dora Young.

For certificates: Ruth Køster, Diane Martindell, Carolyn Minogue.

ANNE W. HOWLAND

Los Angeles public library

Flora B. Roberts, librarian of the Public library, Kalamazoo, Michigan, was the speaker at the closing exercises of the school, May 29. After her wise counsel, the 30 graduates were the guests of honor at a luncheon given by the Alumni association at which 95 graduates were present. Mrs. Faith H. Hyers, the president of the alumni, cleverly introduced five of the alumni who gave amusing talks on their work: Mary Alice Boyd, who told how it feels to be a reader's adviser; Frances Richardson, how it feels to enter the movies; Dorothy Engstrum, how it feels to be the first woman in the Huntington library; Alice Scheck, how it feels to make a round trip from the bank library; and Gertrude Darlow on the books of the year. Ruth Wilcox, president of the class of 1928, presented the class gift, a substantial sum for the Loan fund.

The following members of the class have received appointments:

Evelyn Cooper, assistant, California division, State library, Sacramento.

Beatrice Jepson, assistant, Bank of Italy library, Los Angeles.

Pauline Fischer, Mary Fraites, Dorothy Lowder, Charlotte Munson, Frances Widick, children's librarians, Los Angeles public library.

Eva Thompson, assistant, Long Beach public library.

Jane Kuhns, literature department, Helen Mason, continuations division, Elizabeth Olmstead, philosophy and religion department, Ruth Peiffer, catalog department, Jeanette Rideout, school and teachers department, Sara Schoonover, order department, Los Angeles public library.

MARION HORTON
Principal

Pratt Institute

The class have reached the end of the school year without a single defection and graduated June 21, 100 per cent, a rather unusual record.

The Vice-director attended the A. L. A. at West Baden and enjoyed meeting and talking with many graduates of the school. She presided at the meeting of the Association of American library schools, took part in a discussion on the academic training for librarianship, attended the A.

L. A. Council meetings, but the high spot of the whole week for her was the Pratt dinner at the French Lick Hotel. The suggestion of the lower regions in the odors permeating the atmosphere had no effect on the hilarity of the group who dined together Thursday evening. About 40 were present, representing the country from coast to coast and from the Canadian to the Mexican border. Each graduate gave a brief sketch of her work and experiences.

The following appointments have been made since those announced in June:

Genevieve M. Macdonald is to be chairman of the Bibliographical committee of the Minneapolis public library.

Sara J. Stewart is to be assistant in the circulating department of the Pratt Institute free library.

Marian E. Stubbs is to be assistant in the cataloging department, Pratt Institute free library.

Mildred G. Tape goes as general assistant to the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, public library.

Edna Thomson is to be in charge of the University Heights sub-branch of the New York public library.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE

St. Louis library school

Nine of the students attended the A. L. A. conference at West Baden, May 28-June 2, came back with enthusiastic reports, and presented them to the class on June 4.

The school held its commencement exercises on June 5, at the Cabanne branch library. Judson T. Jennings, librarian of the Seattle public library, spoke on "The opportunity of the librarian as an educator." The diplomas were presented by Mrs. A. J. Burr, a member of the Board of Directors of the St. Louis public library.

Of the 29 graduates, 20 completed the general course, eight the special course for children's librarians, and one the post-graduate course for children's librarians.

Graduates of the general course have received appointments as follows:

Leon Carnovsky, assistant to the librarian, Washington University library, St. Louis.

Helen H. Darsie, assistant, Technology division, Public library, Seattle.

Margaret A. Rounds, librarian, Benton, Illinois.

Margaret E. Hauge, assistant, children's department, Public library, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Mrs Stella R. Waters, circulation department, Cossitt library, Memphis, Tennessee.

Eley A. Fister, assistant, children's department, Public library, Wichita, Kansas.

Helen F. MacMahon, assistant, Public library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Violet M. Williamson, children's department, Public library, Tulsa, Okla.

In the St. Louis public library:

Marion A. Asher, Elsa M. Carlson and Ethel A. Wiese, catalog department.

Sarah T. Booth, Central children's room.

Evelyn Cherry, Carpenter branch.

Madeleine Closs, open shelf department.

Dorothy W. Grindon, Divoll branch.

Katherine P. Hafner, Virginia M. Moran, Josephine E. Silsby, and Jeannette Whitehill, stations department.

Veronica J. Smith, assistant children's librarian, Barr branch.

Katherine L. O'Keefe, assistant children's librarian, Crunden branch.

Mrs Irma C. Littleton, Children's librarian, Baden branch.

Marianne Van Guest, assistant, Barr branch.

Margaret F. Willis, assistant, circulation department.

MRS HARRIET P. SAWYER

Simmons College

Appointments, 1928

Elsie Aylett, temporary position for the summer, New York public library.

Ann Berman, assistant in desk work, Public library, South Bend, Ind.

Lillian F. Calder, children's librarian, Sprague House branch, Public library, Providence, R. I.

Jeannette Clark, cataloger, Montclair State normal school, New Jersey.

Katharine B. Day, cataloger for grade school system, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Margaret Draper, children's work, Public library, Washington, D. C.

Christine E. Everts, librarian, Public library, Weymouth, Mass.

Dorothy I. Hannaford, general assistant, Public library, Attleboro, Mass.

Harriet Hatch, assistant in the branch department, New York public library.

Eleanor L. Merrow, general assistant, Public library, Larchmont, New York.

Evelyn R. Reimers, school librarian, Public schools, Denver, Colorado.

Virginia G. Snively, cataloger, University of Montana library, Missoula.

Margery L. Stocker, assistant in children's work, Public library, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Lucile E. Wright, general assistant in the Fiske Room, Radcliffe College library, Cambridge.

JUNE RICHARDSON DONNELLY

University of Washington

The annual meeting of the University of Washington Library School Alumni association was held May 18, with a banquet in honor of the graduating class. The program was entertaining, as a representative of each graduating class since the first in 1913 related the good points of her class, maintaining that it was the best one ever graduated. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

Drusilla Dorland, '27, president; Zoa E. Connolly, '26, vice-president; Bessie Stone, '28, secretary; Winnifred Jones, '26, treasurer; Luella Clair Larson, '23, publicity manager.

Ella Danielson, '21, children's librarian of the Hilo County library, Hawaii, and Clarissa Goold, '22, who has been attending the Library school at Columbia University, New York, visited the library recently.

Jennie Olson, '23, has accepted a position in the Umatilla County library, Pendleton, Oregon. She was formerly librarian at Pocatello, Idaho.

Margaret Crompton, assistant-librarian, Public library, Vancouver, B. C., was recently awarded the \$1000 fellowship from the Graduate school of the University of Chicago.

Eleanor Pineo, '27, secretary to the librarian, University of Washington, has resigned to accept a position as assistant cataloger in the Provincial library, Victoria, B. C.

Margaret B. Jones, '22, of the U. of W. acquisitions division, was married June 2, '28, to Vernon S. Anderson.

Florence E. Davis, '25, librarian of the Public library, Port Angeles, Washington, was married May 22, to V. Webner Wiedemann. They will make their home in Seattle.

The following appointments of the class of 1928 have not been reported:

Brust, Shirley K. Public library, Portland, Oregon.

Cohen, Rose Reference department, Tacoma public library.

Mactavish, Isabel Children's department, Portland, Oregon.

Olson, Doris K. McKinley Hill branch, Public library, Tacoma.

Randall, Helen Jean School department, Public library, Portland, Oregon.

Whiteman, Jean Public library, New Westminster, B. C.

W. E. HENRY

Keeping Up to Date¹

The success of a public library in serving its community is measured to a very large extent by the up-to-date-ness of its book collections. The public wants new books when people are talking about them and reading about them. It demands modern, timely works on subjects which are before the public eye. It wants clean, fresh-looking, attractive books.

To meet these demands the library must give heed 1) to the selection of books, 2) to the distribution and arrangement of the books in the library, and 3) perhaps especially to the rehabilitation of the book collections,—the three major factors in keeping the book collections up-to-date.

In playing this game the immediate aim is to anticipate demand, and to create and attract demand; the ultimate aim is to promote the widest possible use of the books available. Use must vindicate not only the selection of a book but also the placing of that book on a coveted inch of shelving. The best book in the library from the lending point of view is one which has gotten to the shelf before demand is felt for it, and, altho it is accorded a place on the most prized shelf in the lending department, stays on the shelf the shortest possible time before it is snatched by a reader who is enthused over its timeliness and its attractiveness, and the promise it holds.

Rehabilitation is probably the most important factor in making and keeping books alive because it affects the bulk of the library's collections and affords unlimited opportunity to make the most out of the material at hand.

Rehabilitation comprises weeding out dead wood, repairing and rebinding worn material, and restoring to life books which have lost their place in the sun in the deadly competition with best sellers and works hot off the press. The aim again is to get worthwhile books used, but now it is by getting rid of the obsolete, the dirty and

the worn, by dressing the survivors in new, attractive-colored bindings that attract the eye like the bright covers of new books, and finally by applying the art of modern advertising to attract readers to something they have missed, something that offers entertainment, or usefulness, or inspiration, something that meets a need of the hour. Here the game of keeping books up-to-date approaches a fine art; at any rate it challenges all the resourcefulness and technical skill of the librarian.

The completion of the New English Dictionary, the publication of which began in 1884, has been announced by the Oxford University Press. The American branch of the Oxford University Press offers to supply an interesting article by Dr William A. Craigie on how the dictionary was prepared and a photograph of the completed set. The Oxford dictionary is based on historical principles and adds to its etymological character much that is only found in encyclopedias of various kinds. Without doubt it is the monumental work of the past 50 years.

Provincialism in any kind of a critic is a serious fault.

A novelist may create any sort of a scene or plot or person or environment for his story that he chooses, but in the serious actual business of living, that sort of thing will not do. First it makes the statements valueless thru-out, often an unfair thing to do, as it deprives a situation of some points of excellence which it may have, or it gives a false element in any process of composition. Too many little mansions have been acclaimed to their own detriment as important edifices.

—Selected

According to the dispatches, Dr Carvey Landis of Wesleyan University has made a statistical study of what people talk about. At street corners, on subways, in theaters, he has listened in and tabulated his notes. And his findings are that women talk chiefly about men, clothing, themselves and other women; and that men talk chiefly about money and business. Well, why not?

¹ From a paper by Harold Brigham, librarian of Nashville, Tenn., read in the Lending section. The spirit of its applies to school libraries as well.

Department of School Libraries

Read not to contradict and confute; nor to believe and take for granted; nor to find talk and discourse; but to weigh and consider.—BACON.

School Libraries Section

Report of meeting at A. L. A. conference, West Baden, Indiana

[This report should be of interest to all school librarians and will lead many, no doubt, to wish they had been present and resolve to go "next time."—Editor]

Altho the attendance of school librarians at the West Baden conference was not as large as usual because it came just at the close of the school year for many, those who were present made up in enthusiasm and interest for lack of numbers.

An outstanding feature of the first session held on Tuesday afternoon was the report of E. L. Miller, chairman of a committee on the North Central association of colleges and schools, on the recommendations of the recent survey of high schools made by the association, and was read by Miss Martha Wilson. The territory of the North Central association covers 20 states including Ohio and West Virginia on the east, Montana and New Mexico on the west, Oklahoma and Arizona on the southwest, Minnesota and Michigan on the northwest. More than 1000 schools in this section co-operated by scoring their libraries, and the results were very enlightening. It is to be hoped that the full report will be printed for distribution by either the A. L. A. or the N. C. A. The recommendations of the committee were accepted by the association and its committee on standards directed to work out a new statement of requirements for use in judging libraries in its schools.

After a paper by Vera Dixon, supervisor of school libraries of Des Moines, describing the plan of supervision and coöperation between schools and libraries in Des Moines, the section separated into two groups for discussion of specific problems. Junior and senior high-school librarians, under the chairmanship of

Mildred Pope, of Girard college, talked about methods of instruction and how the library can best serve the interest of the school and the individual child.

Althea Currin, Cleveland, gave an interesting paper on instruction in the use of library. She said in part:

The pupil will remember best that part of the instruction which most nearly fits his needs. Both the content and method should be adapted to the group. This training is the foundation for the success of the future library patron.

The present trend of education is towards individual instruction. The school library feels the reaction. Increased demands are placed upon it by these changes. By correlation much of the actual instruction can be done with other class assignments.

Among the methods of instruction in the use of the library is that of separating the class into small groups each of which pursues its own problem. The librarian acts only as director and adviser. The chairman of each group is responsible for the satisfactory completion of the work.

In another way, the student conducts an investigation of certain library tools and presents his findings to the class as a basis for discussion. These have first been discussed with the librarian who acts as his adviser.

A third method is to present the material in the form of a contract or a lesson unit. The librarian prepares the outlines, stating the goal and the procedure. She presents it to the student for individual work. Here the bulk of her responsibility comes with the preparation of the problem.

The following questions arise:

How can the actual class assignments be made a vehicle for training in the use of the library?

In order to fit the future needs of the various groups, how best can we

provide flexibility both in subject matter and in methods of procedure?

Which of the modern methods recognized by the educational world shall we apply to our instruction?

Mary E. Downey presided over the Normal school and Teachers College group which considered The Future of the normal school in the training of school librarians. Advantages of the teachers college, the department of education of the state university, and the general library school were well presented. It was agreed that until teachers colleges and normal schools have more adequate resources in books, and larger staffs with more professional training than many now have, they should not undertake to give a full year of library training for school librarians.

The second session was held jointly with the Children's librarians, Miss Porter of Seattle and Miss Lovis of Detroit, chairmen. Mabel Williams, supervisor of work with schools, New York public library, spoke of ways in which the children's librarian can help the school librarian in book selection, and made each school librarian wish enviously that Miss Williams was the children's librarian of her community with whom she could talk over her book problems.

Carl Vitz in speaking of the problems of organization and standardization emphasized the danger of rigidity in rules and urged flexibility in the arbitrary barriers set up between departments. He believes the transition between children's and adult departments should be gradual and that there is a great value to many children in contact with a collection of books chosen for the adult mind.

In discussing Mr Vitz' paper, Florence Briber of the Division of work with schools of the Denver public library described the ways in which the library and the schools cooperate to supply the book needs of the schools of that city. A committee composed of members from the schools administrative staff and from the library staff has done much to bring about

closer coöperation between these two agencies.

Eva Schars, librarian, Cleveland intermediate school, Detroit, read a most interesting paper on A day in a Detroit platoon school library, showing a splendid picture of the work in an elementary school library. Her paper will appear in full elsewhere and will be of special interest to those who are studying the problems of this comparatively new phase of school library work.

The Children's and the School Libraries sections voted to direct their respective executive boards to work out a plan of sending a gift of American children's books to some of the libraries of our sister republic, Mexico.

At the brief business meeting of the School Libraries section on Tuesday, Eleanor Witmer was elected to the Board of directors, succeeding Marion Lovis, retired. Under the rotating plan of the Board, Marjorie Van Deusen, librarian, Belmont high school, Los Angeles, becomes chairman for next year.

HELEN M. HARRIS
Secretary

School Libraries Institute

An institute on the administration of elementary school libraries will be held, July 9-21 inclusive, at the University of Minnesota. It will be under the direct charge of the College of Education in coöperation with the Association of elementary school principals. It is the second of the series, the first having been held in Seattle last year. University credit will be given for satisfactory completion of the course. A number of eminent lecturers have been invited to speak.

The N. E. A. will hold its annual meeting in Minneapolis, Minn., July 1-6, 1928.

No man can open his mind to the spirit and teaching of the greatest minds without suffering an enlargement of vision. A man can remain small in a library only by refusing the noble fellowship which lies within his reach; he cannot have companionship with inspiring persons and escape some share in their nobler vision of life.—*Hamilton Wright Mabie.*

News from the Field

East

Muriel Callowhill, Simmons '23, was married, June 2 to Ellsworth F. Dill.

Alice Rowe, formerly librarian at Nashua, N. H., has joined the instructional staff at Simmons College library.

R. K. Shaw, librarian of the Free public library, Worcester, Massachusetts, with Mrs Shaw, is traveling in Italy and southern France.

Jennie D. Lindquist, assistant in the children's department of the City library, Manchester, N. H., has been awarded the "Caroline M. Hewins scholarship for training in children's library work" for 1928-29. Miss Lindquist will take a course at Simmons College.

The Public library, Waltham, Mass., serves a population of 34,764 thru the main library, two branches and four stations, in addition to collections in school rooms; books on shelves, 77,898; pamphlets, 4412; volumes lent, 287,471, 8v. per capita; registered borrowers, 10,864; receipts, \$38,109; expenditures, \$38,078.

The new Olin Memorial library building of Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, was dedicated May 17. The building is named after Stephen Olin, second president of Wesleyan, and his son, a trustee for 45 years. The building was a gift with its cost unrevealed.

In the wainscoted entrance hall are busts of the father and son. The architect of the building was Henry Bacon, the designer of the distinguished Lincoln Memorial in Washington. A room in the Olin Memorial is dedicated to his memory and contains his working books. Two rooms are devoted to an art gallery, and one room, attractively fitted up for a browsing room, is most inviting. The rooms devoted to library service are adequately and conveniently arranged.

The annual report of the Public library, Worcester, Mass., records a cir-

ulation of 930,729v.; number of volumes in the library, 288,253; active borrowers, 36,129. The reference department during the winter months was considerably upset in its routine by newspaper contests. One, relating to outstanding figures in American history, was excellently planned, tho resulting in hard wear on certain reference books. The second, requiring a missing key-word to a quotation, almost demoralized the reference work for a fortnight.

The branch libraries are active in the community interests—dramatics, story-telling, contests, vacation reading clubs, and bird house exhibits. A number of highly appreciated exhibits in the art rooms were shown.

The municipal appropriation was \$144,950, of which \$25,567 was spent for books, periodicals and binding.

Professor Robert Pierpont Blake, of the staff of Harvard University, has been appointed director of the University library at Harvard to succeed the late Archibald C. Coolidge. Dr Blake has been connected with the department of history, government and economics at Harvard.

He was born in California and was graduated from its university in 1908. He received his A. M. and Ph. D. degrees from Harvard in 1909 and 1916. He studied for five years in Germany and Russia and was professor in the University of Petrograd. He was commissioned by the Russian academy of sciences at Transcaucasia for the investigation of old Georgian ecclesiastical manuscripts. During 1920, he taught in the University of Tiflis, Republic of Georgia, returning to Harvard in 1923. During 1923-24, he was exchange tutor at University College, Oxford, where he was awarded an honorary degree.

Central Atlantic

Esther Wiltsie, Simmons '25, has been appointed assistant librarian of the Normal school, Cortland, New York.

The report of the Osterhout free library, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., records: Circulation, 343,276v.; books on shelves, 72,847; pamphlets, 3228; periodicals, 220; borrowers registered, 35,080.

The Abington library, Jenkintown, Pa., which is in every sense a public library for use of the community, is not supported by taxes and has reached its one-hundred twenty-fifth year of service. Now it finds a stumbling block due to lack of funds.

The report of the New York public library stresses the need for additional funds to meet increasing demands for library facilities, and to provide salaries for the larger staff that is needed for the increasing service of the library. There is a demand for new library buildings in communities where the population is growing and where library facilities have been inadequate. The work in the main building is cramped not only for serving the public but for storing books and accommodating library workers. More than 4,000,000 persons used the central library building during 1927. Number of books issued for home use thruout the system was 10,277,766.

Central

Margaret Hunt, librarian of the Public library of Denison, Iowa, has resigned. Miss Ethel Moffitt succeeds her.

An honorary degree of Master of Arts was conferred on Carl B. Roden, librarian of Chicago public library, by Northwestern University, June 18.

Margaret T. Grant, for some time in charge of circulation of the Public library, Gary, Indiana, has resigned to become librarian of the Public library, Lorain, Ohio.

Marjorie Stanley, librarian for several years at Public library, New London, Wis., has resigned. She will enter the library school, University of Wisconsin next year.

Susan G. Akers, assistant-professor, University of Wisconsin library school, and Field visitor, Wisconsin library

commission, has been granted a scholarship in the advanced school for librarianship, University of Chicago.

Zona Gale of the Wisconsin library commission and well known to the book world thru her books and for her several activities was married recently to W. H. Breese. The combination of names has caused wide comment, suggesting a zephyr, a whirlwind, a cyclone, perhaps a tornado.

Charlotte Ryan, Ill., '16-17, has resigned as Legislative reference librarian, State library, Austin, Texas, to become librarian of the Public library, Jacksonville, Illinois.

An effort is being made at Bloomington, Indiana, to extend the service of the city library to the whole of Monroe county. The board of commissioners will be asked to levy a four cent tax on every \$100 which would raise about \$6018 a year for library purposes. Later: The library tax was levied and will be in force July 1.

Sue Osmotherly of Hot Springs, S. D., formerly assistant librarian in the Public library, Sioux City, Iowa, but for the past year a student at Barnard College, New York City, recently received thru the vote of fellow students, the International fellowship of \$1000. She will use her award for a year's study of political economy at the London school of economics.

The Public library of East Cleveland, Ohio, reports the largest activity of its history in the past year. A gain of 23.5 per cent in circulation, 368,105v., is noted, 8.56v. per capita; active registration, 15,205; books on the shelves, 62,814; magazines and newspapers, 178. A new activity is the making of scrap books for the use of the schools, particularly picture scrap books for the kindergarten. A new branch building in Caledonia is in a portable building, 25x100 feet, conveniently arranged and well lighted. It has colorful walls and pottery and pictures, making an inviting intimacy and coziness.

The annual report of the Public library of Decatur, Illinois, records the greatest year in its history both in circulation and service rendered, despite a cut in book purchases and a number of vacancies left unfulfilled in the staff. Miss Dill, the librarian, asks that the hours of service in the branches be extended, particularly at night, and that more school libraries and deposit stations be established. Attention is called to congested conditions in the main library and to the necessity for enlargement. Library service was rendered thru two branches, 11 school libraries and other deposit collections besides the main library. There is an unmet demand for technical books. Number of books on the shelves, 60,233; circulation, 298,000v.; 16,652 borrowers' cards in force; receipts for the year, \$42,448; expenditures—salaries, \$21,162; books, \$5541; periodicals, \$859; binding, \$2197.

South

Donald Coney, librarian of the University of Delaware, succeeds C. M. Baker at the University of North Carolina.

On May 12, San Antonio, Texas, adopted a proposal to issue \$500,000 in bonds for the construction of a new main library building and branches.

Olin S. Davis, for many years librarian of the Public library, Laconia, N. H., has resigned his position as librarian at Fiske University, Nashville, Tennessee.

Jackson Edmund Towne, for some time chief of the readers' department, School of Education, New York University, has been appointed librarian of the George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee. He holds the M. A. and B. L. S. degrees.

The annual report of the Public library, Dallas, Texas, estimates the population served to be 211,600, thru five agencies; books on shelves, 70,159; circulation, 402,560v; registered borrowers, 85,000, 40 per cent of the population; receipts, \$47,892; expenditures, \$41,486,

of which \$16,167 was for librarians' salaries, and \$16,146 for books, periodicals and binding—balance, \$6406.

The three-year period of support by the Carnegie Corporation for the extension work in Louisiana has expired. The Library commission which grew out of it has given definite service from its 14,000 reference titles thruout the state and has made connection for inter-library loans within and without the state. The Carnegie Corporation has offered to match any donation given for the work of the commission and the latter will ask the state legislature for \$30,000 for a two-year period.

The twenty-third annual report of the Public library, Houston, Texas, is an account of the first complete year of work in the new library building. It was a year of satisfying growth in service to the community. Total number of volumes in the main library and branches, 114,805; number loaned for home reading, 509,666v., an increase of 33,574v. over the previous year; new borrowers registered, 11,148—18 per cent of the population; receipts, \$71,579; expenditures, \$79,516—salaries, \$41,150; books, \$17,693; departmental improvements, \$6340.

West

Charles M. Baker, assistant librarian of the University of North Carolina since 1919, has become librarian of the University of Kansas, a post lately resigned by Earl N. Manchester. Mr Baker will enter upon his new duties in September.

Precious File

I am in possession of an original file of all the 71 issues of THE STARS AND STRIPES, published in Paris during 1917-18. There are perhaps 25 such complete files in the world. Will sell for \$1,000.00 cash and allow 10 per cent of that amount to person making deal. Fine thing for public spirited persons of means to add to own library or donate to a museum, public library, etc. Further information to those actually interested on request. C. A. Darling, 139 N. Clark St., Chicago, Ill.

Pacific Coast

Mrs Ruth Fiet, W. R. '21, and Mrs Marjorie Lewis, University of Washington, have entered the service of the Public library, San Diego, California.

W. H. Kerr has been appointed director of libraries of Claremont Colleges. Claremont College, Scripps College and Pomona College have been affiliated. Mr Kerr continues as librarian of Pomona College but will have a general advisory relation to the libraries of the affiliated colleges and direct charge of the library of Claremont Colleges. These will be housed for the present in the Pomona College library building but will be classified and cataloged separately.

The library has recently acquired the private library of the late George Burton Adams, the Yale historian. It is about 2000v., chiefly early English history. They have also bought the German library, about 1000v., of Dr John S. Nollen of Grinnell College. There will be further purchases for Claremont College library in economics and education.

Foreign

Senor Joaquin Diaz Mercado in reviewing the libraries in Mexico, said the organized library movement in Mexico has been in existence only five years, but the fruits can already be seen. He said in part:

The types of libraries found in Mexico include the national library, public libraries of the first rate, with more than 8000v.; of the second rate, with more than 4000 and less than 8000v.; of the third rate, with less than 1000v. libraries, for children, rural libraries, and libraries annexed to other institutions, such as labor unions, cultural societies, sport or recreation societies, armories and jails. . . . A group working with enthusiasm has devoted all its energy to a task not free from obstacles, and without the necessary funds or any other support in this respect, than that which the government of the republic can give it.

The annual report of the Public library of Trivandrum (Madras) India, states that the management of the library was in a board of six members. There was no change in the staff of the Public library—an unusual situation for a large place. P. Raman Pillay still

continued to be librarian in place of the regular director who was on duty as private secretary to the Dewan. There was an average of 3094 readers a month in the general reading room. Number of books on the shelves, 26,735. A recommendation for additional space to meet the crowded condition of the library is strongly urged. There was considerable increase in the number of volumes issued during the year, tho fiction continued to be most popular. Number of volumes issued, 27,850. A supplement to the printed catalog has been issued.

The American library in Paris very much appreciates a gift received thru the friends of Mildred Aldrich, the author who wrote *Hilltop* on the Marne, to be known as the Mildred Aldrich endowment. The income from the fund will be paid to an aged servant who was in the employ of Miss Aldrich for many years, and upon her death the income will go to the American library. The fund of 83,000 francs was originally subscribed by friends of Miss Aldrich to purchase the home in which she lived during the high tide of the German invasion. The proprietor refused to sell the place and the money collected was turned over to the library.

This is the fourth endowment the library has received. The first was from the A. L. A., the second in memory of Alan Seeger, and the third in memory of Howard Burchard Lines who died at La Grange au Bois, Argonne.

Wanted—College graduate with library school training and experience desires position in or near New York City. Address: P. O. Box 446, Springfield, Ohio.

A new vacation poster drawn by Vlandimir Bobritsky is ready for distribution, free to libraries and bookstores, by the National Association of Book Publishers in New York. The colors in the poster are unusual, vivid greens and blues predominating. Bookmarks of the same design may be had, the cost 60 cents per thousand.